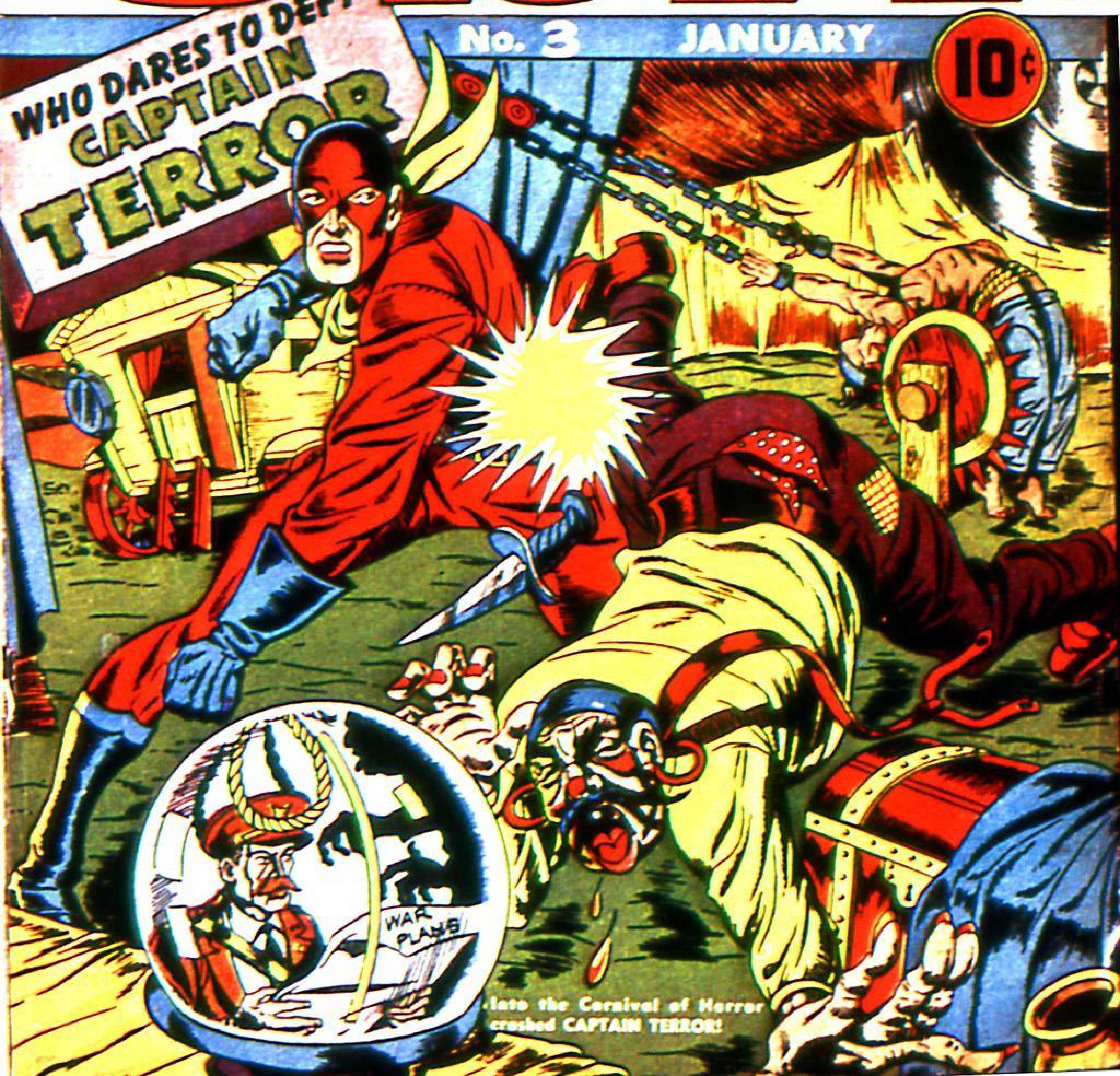
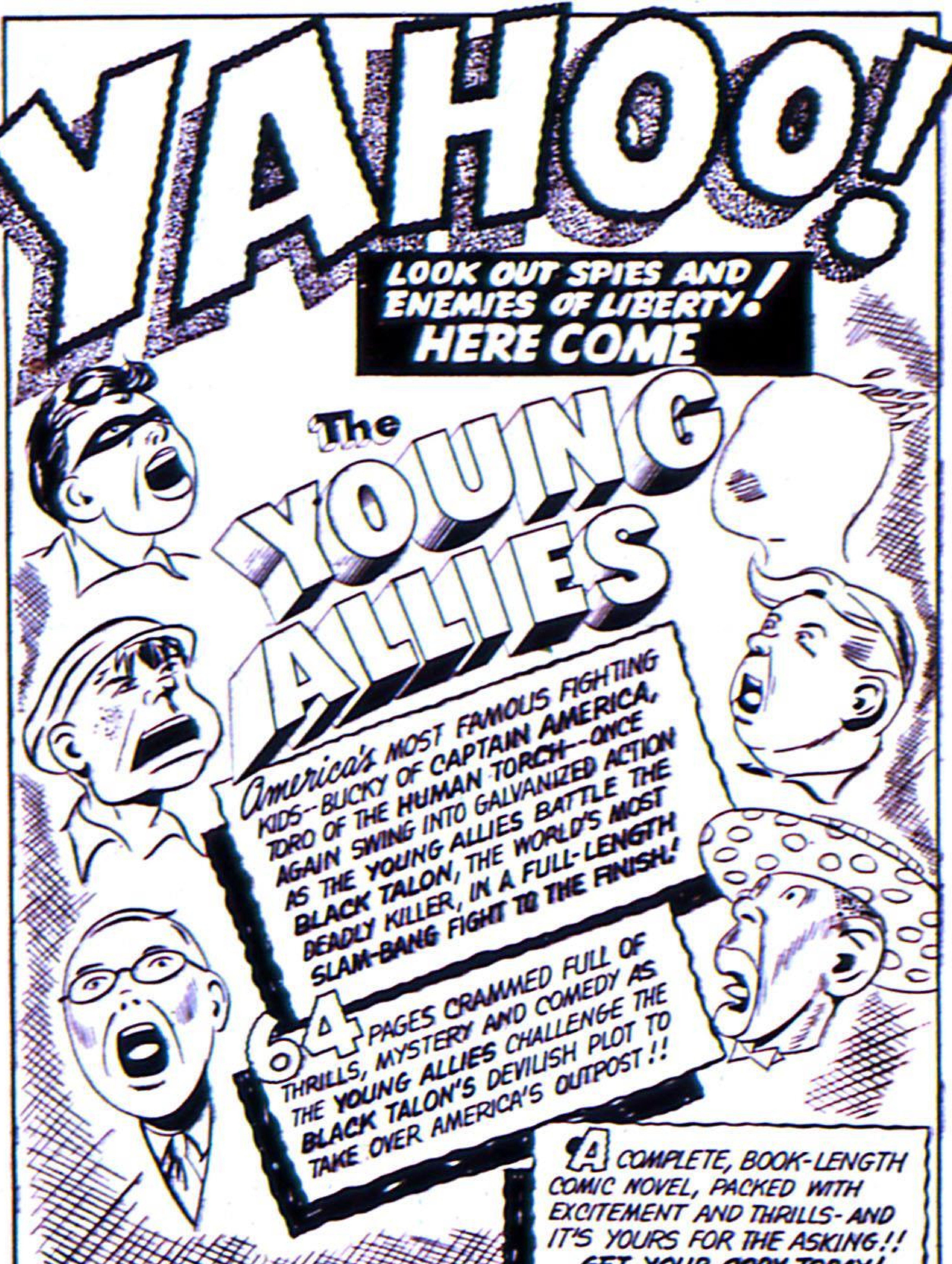
U.S.A. COMICS

No. 3 JANUARY 10¢



WHO DARES TO DEFY
CAPTAIN TERROR
WAR PLANS

Into the Carnival of Horror crashed CAPTAIN TERROR!


YAHOO!
LOOK OUT SPIES AND ENEMIES OF LIBERTY!
HERE COME
The YOUNG ALLIES

America's MOST FAMOUS FIGHTING KIDS--BUCKY OF CAPTAIN AMERICA, TORO OF THE HUMAN TORCH--ONCE AGAIN SWING INTO GALVANIZED ACTION AS THE YOUNG ALLIES BATTLE THE BLACK TALON, THE WORLD'S MOST DEADLY KILLER, IN A FULL-LENGTH SLAM-BANG FIGHT TO THE FINISH!

64 PAGES CRAMMED FULL OF THRILLS, MYSTERY AND COMEDY AS THE YOUNG ALLIES CHALLENGE THE BLACK TALON'S DEVILISH PLOT TO TAKE OVER AMERICA'S OUTPOST!!

A COMPLETE, BOOK-LENGTH COMIC NOVEL, PACKED WITH EXCITEMENT AND THRILLS- AND IT'S YOURS FOR THE ASKING!! GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

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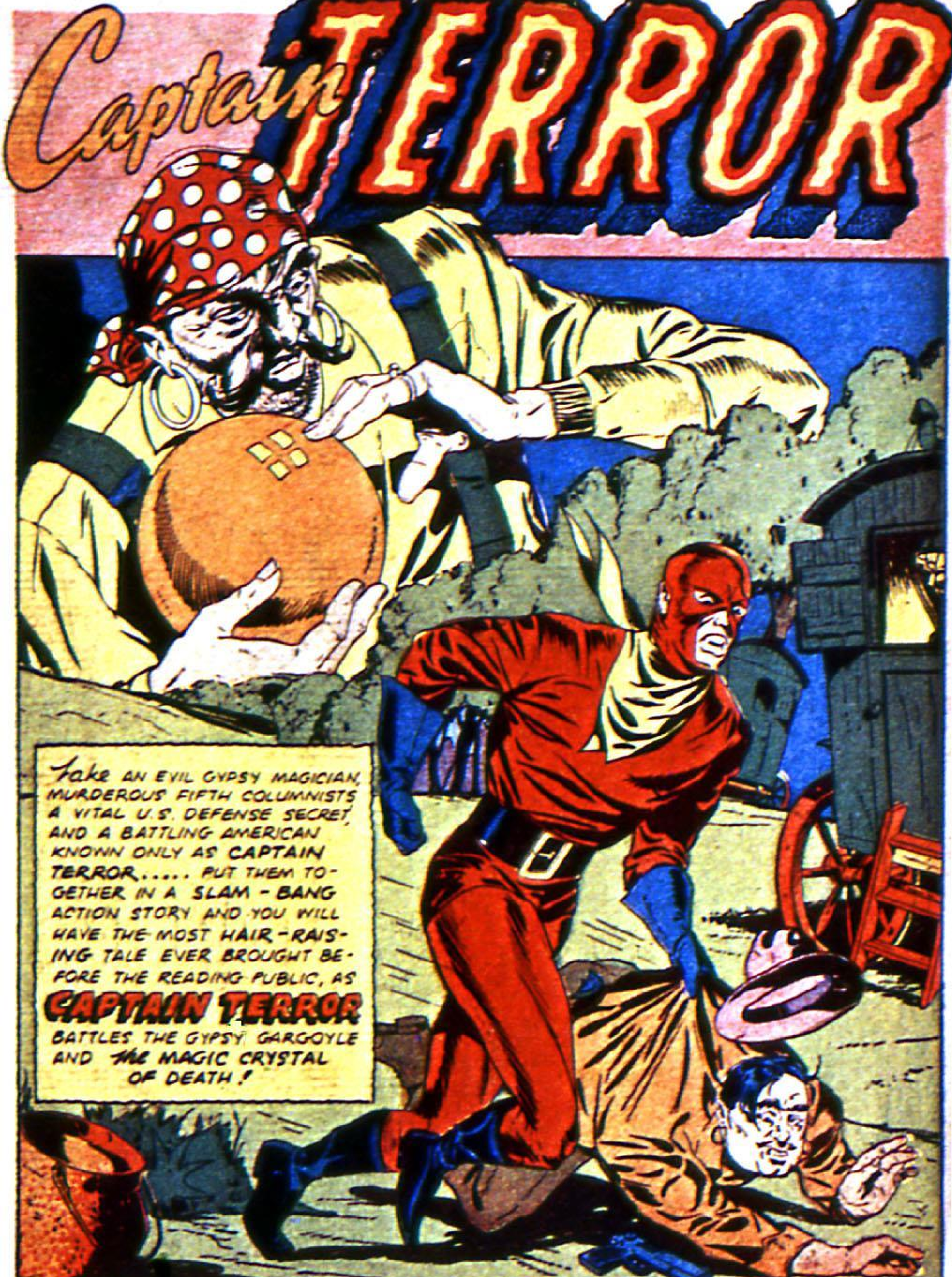
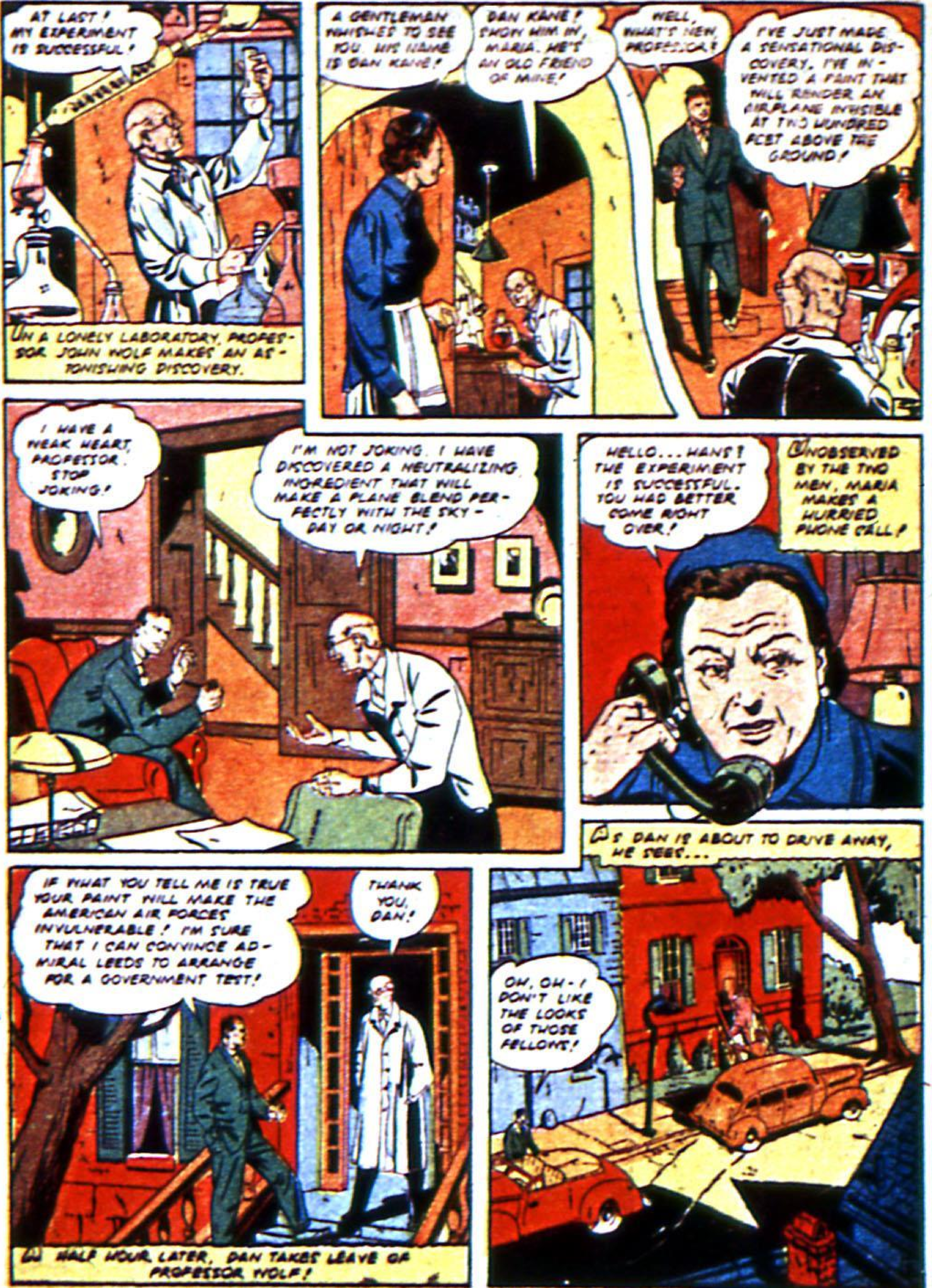
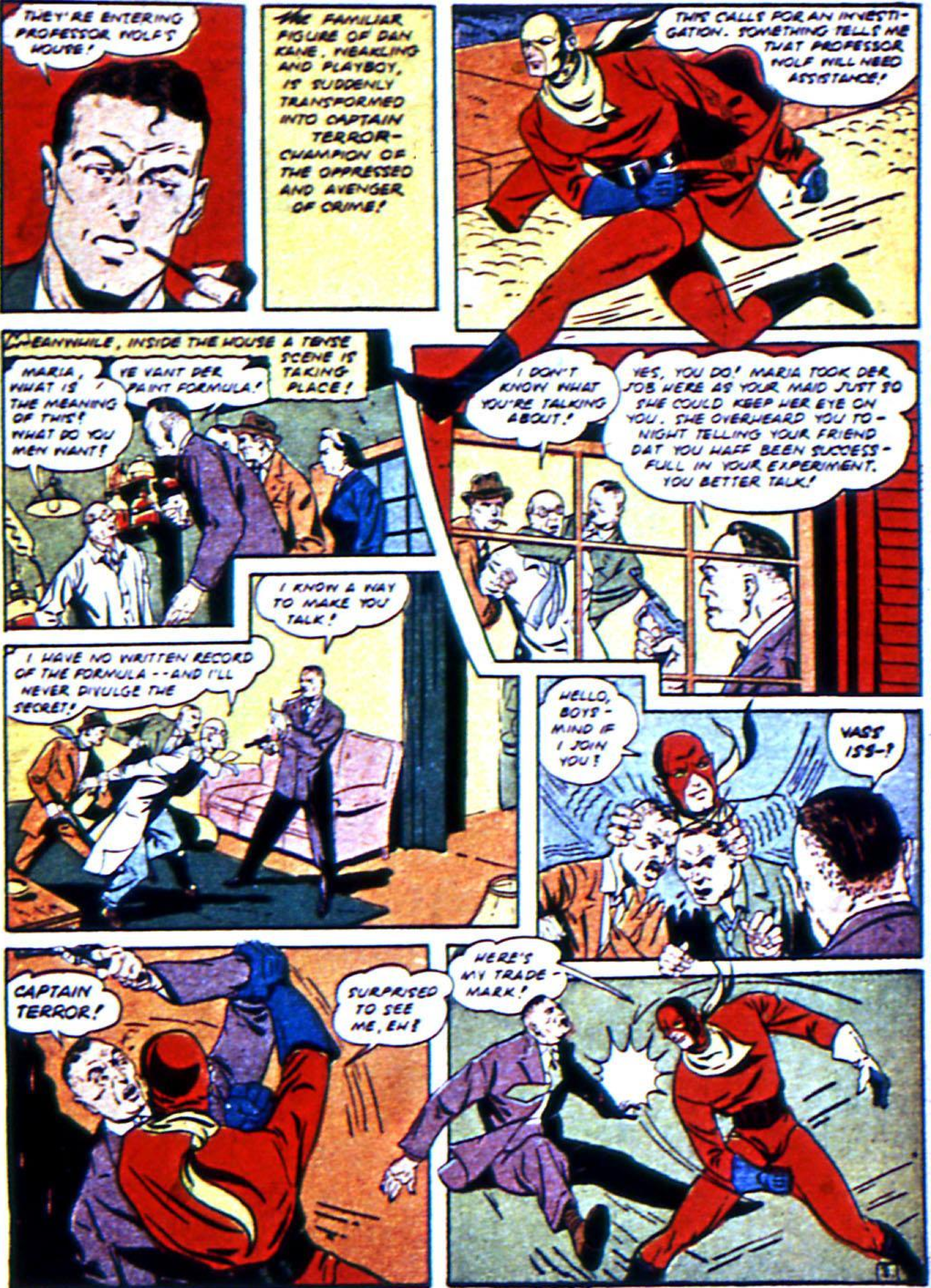
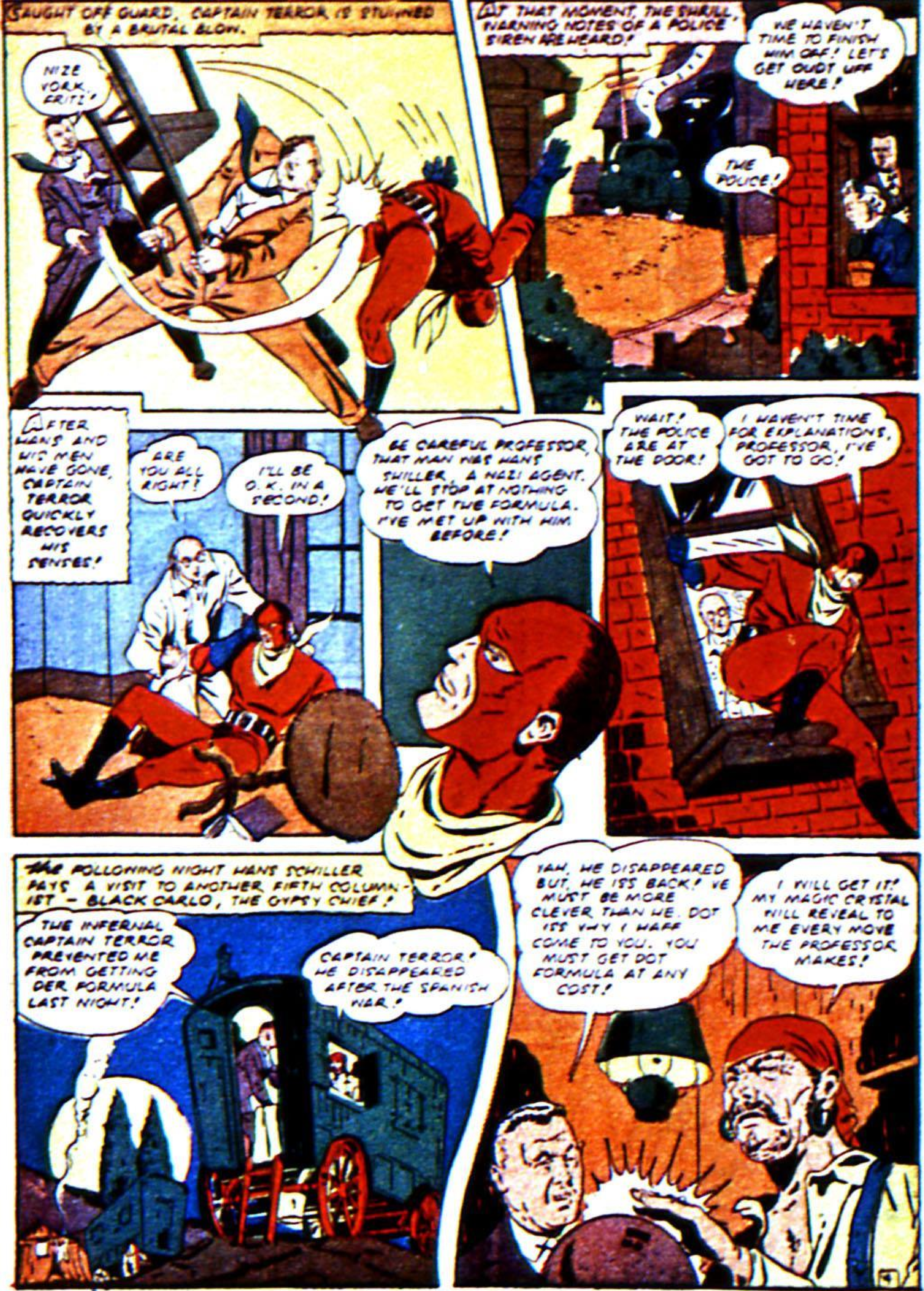
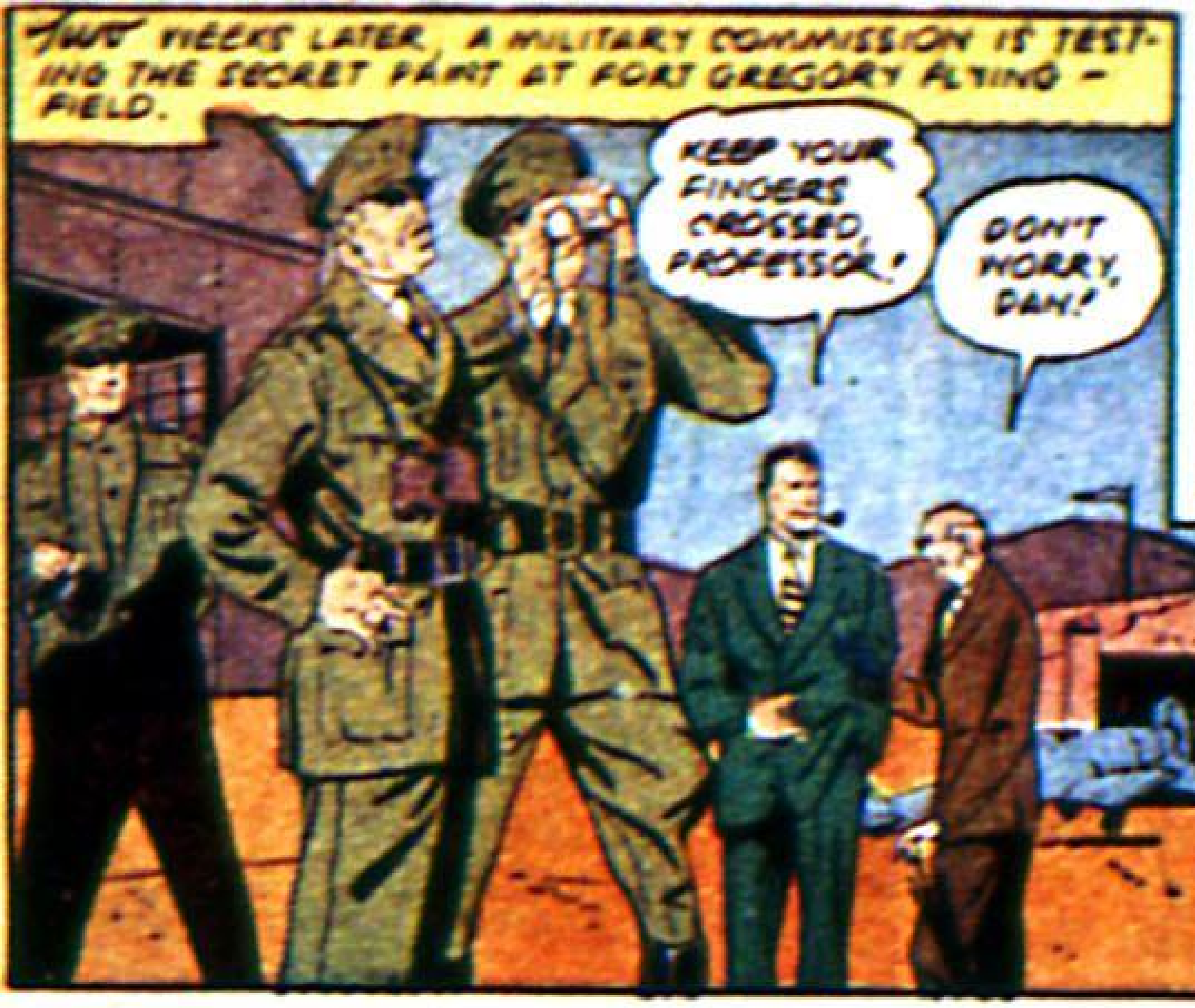
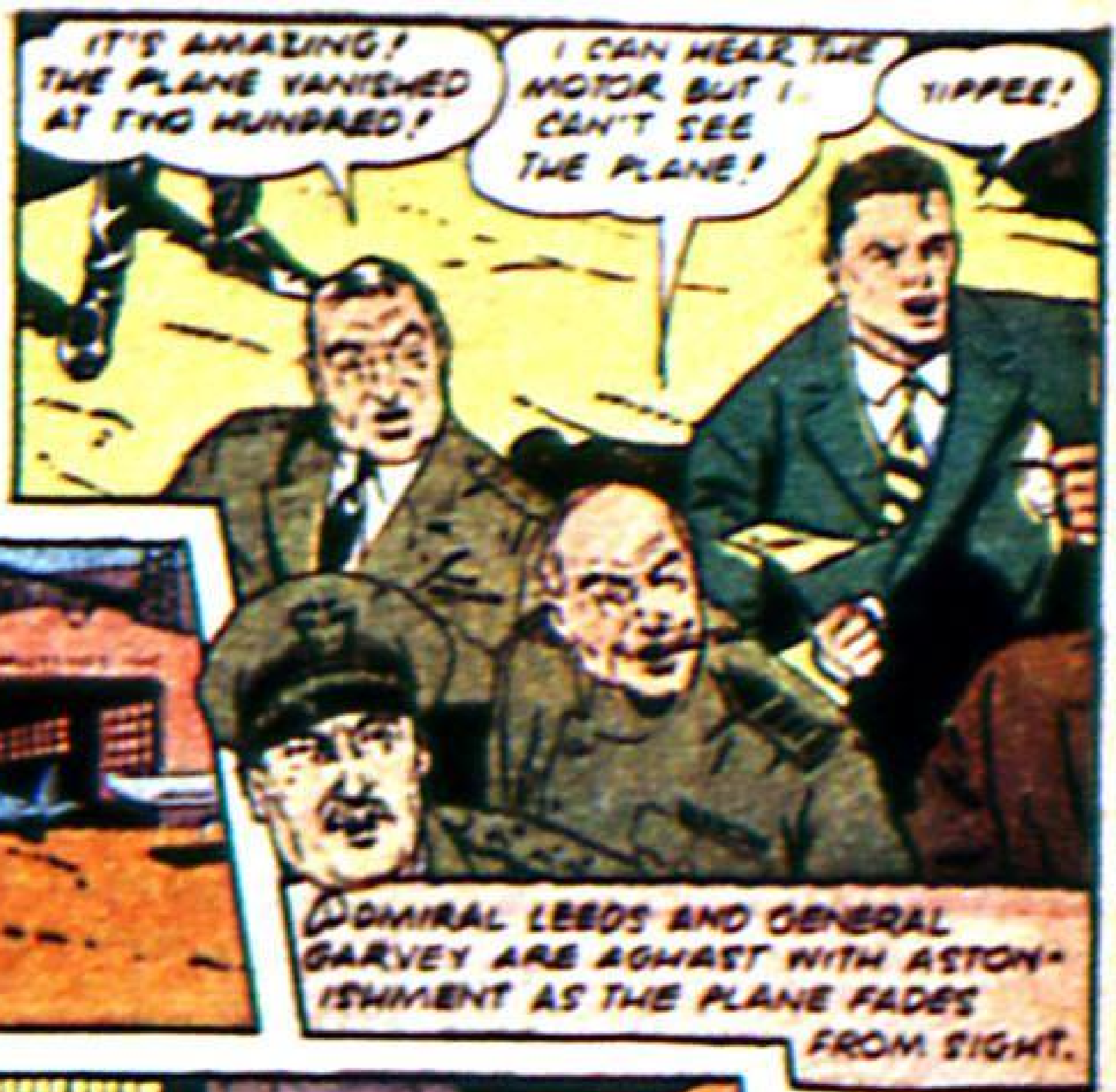

Captain TERROR
Take AN EVIL GYPSY MAGICIAN, MURDEROUS FIFTH COLUMNISTS A VITAL U.S. DEFENSE SECRET, AND A BATTLING AMERICAN KNOWN ONLY AS CAPTAIN TERROR..... PUT THEM TOGETHER IN A SLAM-BANG ACTION STORY AND YOU WILL HAVE THE MOST HAIR-RAISING TALE EVER BROUGHT BEFORE THE READING PUBLIC, AS CAPTAIN TERROR BATTLES THE GYPSY GARGOYLE AND the MAGIC CRYSTAL OF DEATH!

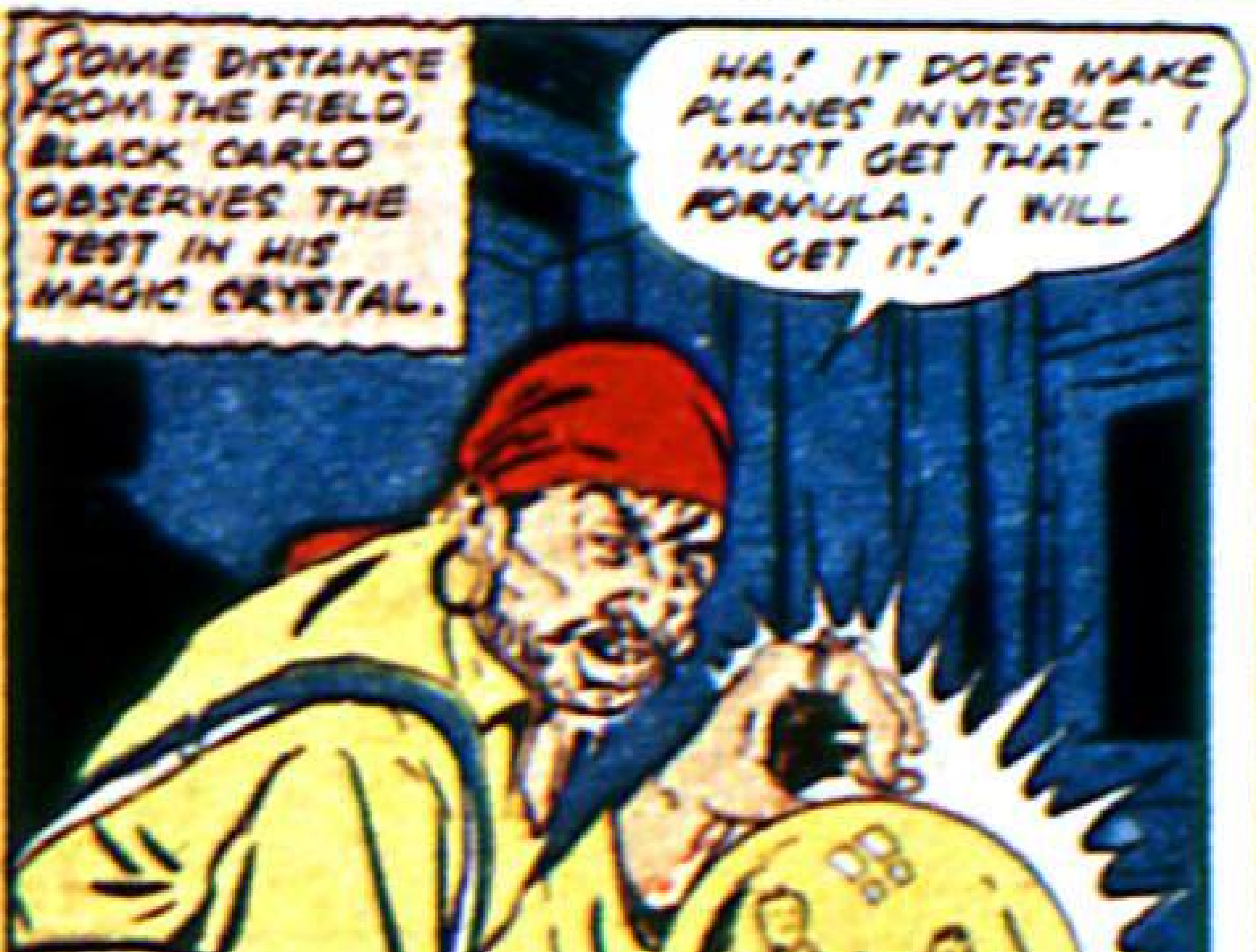

AT LAST! MY EXPERIMENT IS SUCCESSFUL!
IN A LONELY LABORATORY, PROFESSOR JOHN WOLF MAKES AN ASTONISHING DISCOVERY.
A GENTLEMAN WISHES TO SEE YOU. HIS NAME IS DAN KANE!
DAN KANE! SHOW HIM IN, MARIA. HE'S AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE!
WELL, WHAT'S NEW, PROFESSOR?
I'VE JUST MADE A SENSATIONAL DISCOVERY. I'VE INVENTED A PAINT THAT WILL RENDER AN AIRPLANE INVISIBLE AT TWO HUNDRED FEET ABOVE THE GROUND!
I HAVE A WEAK HEART, PROFESSOR. STOP JOKING!
I'M NOT JOKING. I HAVE DISCOVERED A NEUTRALIZING INGREDIENT THAT WILL MAKE A PLANE BLEND PERFECTLY WITH THE SKY - DAY OR NIGHT!
UNOBSERVED BY THE TWO MEN, MARIA MAKES A HURRIED PHONE CALL!
HELLO... HANS? THE EXPERIMENT IS SUCCESSFUL. YOU HAD BETTER COME RIGHT OVER!
IF WHAT YOU TELL ME IS TRUE YOUR PAINT WILL MAKE THE AMERICAN AIR FORCES INVULNERABLE! I'M SURE THAT I CAN CONVINCE ADMIRAL LEEDS TO ARRANGE FOR A GOVERNMENT TEST!
THANK YOU, DAN!
A HALF HOUR LATER, DAN TAKES LEAVE OF PROFESSOR WOLF!
AS DAN IS ABOUT TO DRIVE AWAY, HE SEES...
OH, OH - I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THOSE FELLOWS!

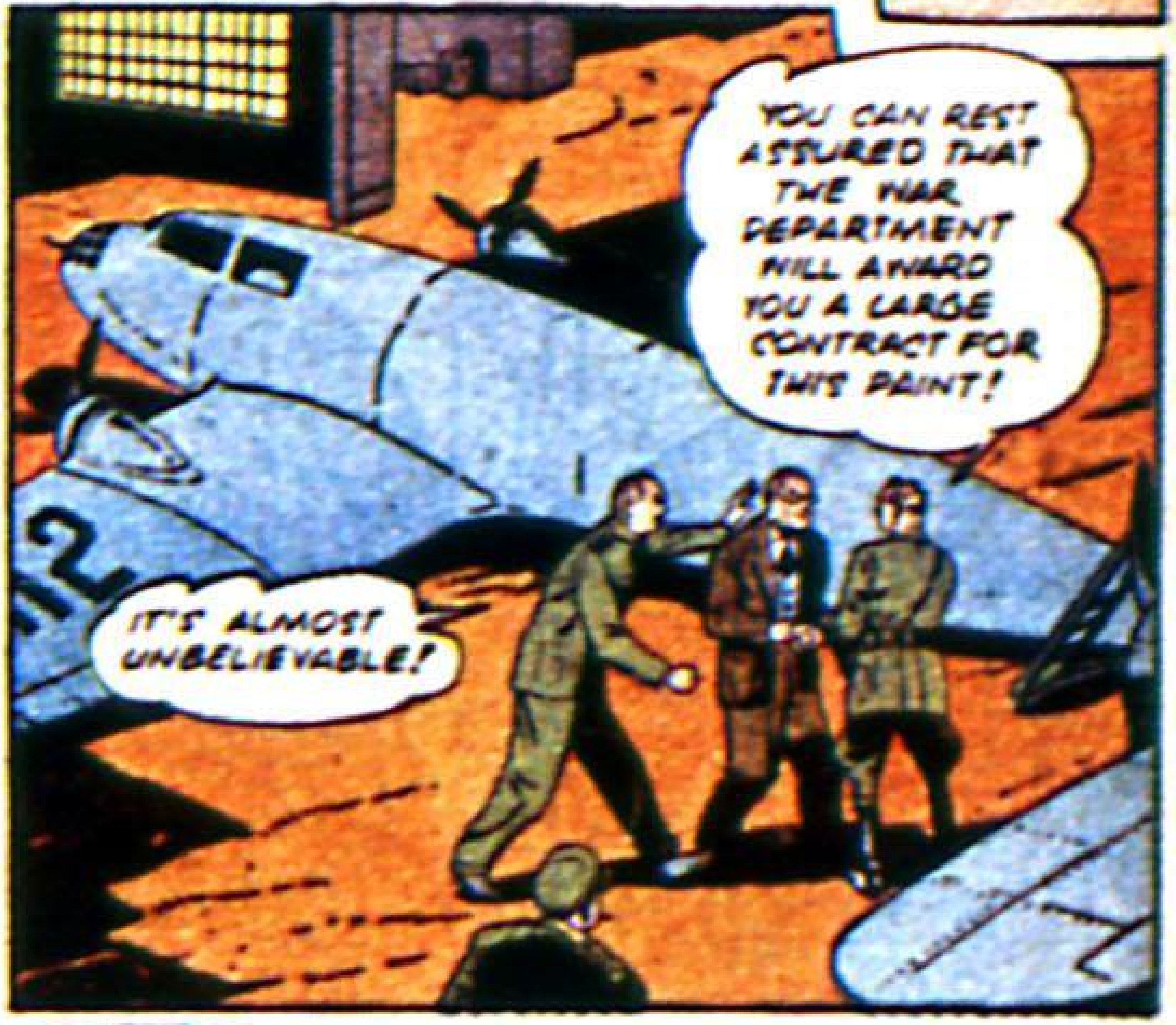

THEY'RE ENTERING PROFESSOR WOLF'S HOUSE!
THE FAMILIAR FIGURE OF DAN KANE, WEAKLING AND PLAYBOY, IS SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED INTO CAPTAIN TERROR- CHAMPION OF THE OPPRESSED AND AVENGER OF CRIME!
THIS CALLS FOR AN INVESTIGATION. SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT PROFESSOR WOLF WILL NEED ASSISTANCE!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HOUSE A TENSE SCENE IS TAKING PLACE!
MARIA, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS! WHAT DO YOU MEN WANT!
VE VANT DER PAINT FORMULA!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
YES, YOU DO! MARIA TOOK DER JOB HERE AS YOUR MAID JUST SO SHE COULD KEEP HER EYE ON YOU. SHE OVERHEARD YOU TONIGHT TELLING YOUR FRIEND DAT YOU HAFF BEEN SUCCESSFULL IN YOUR EXPERIMENT. YOU BETTER TALK!
I HAVE NO WRITTEN RECORD OF THE FORMULA--AND I'LL NEVER DIVULGE THE SECRET!
I KNOW A WAY TO MAKE YOU TALK!
HELLO, BOYS- MIND IF I JOIN YOU!
VASS ISS-?
CAPTAIN TERROR!
SURPRISED TO SEE ME, EH!
HERE'S MY TRADE-MARK!

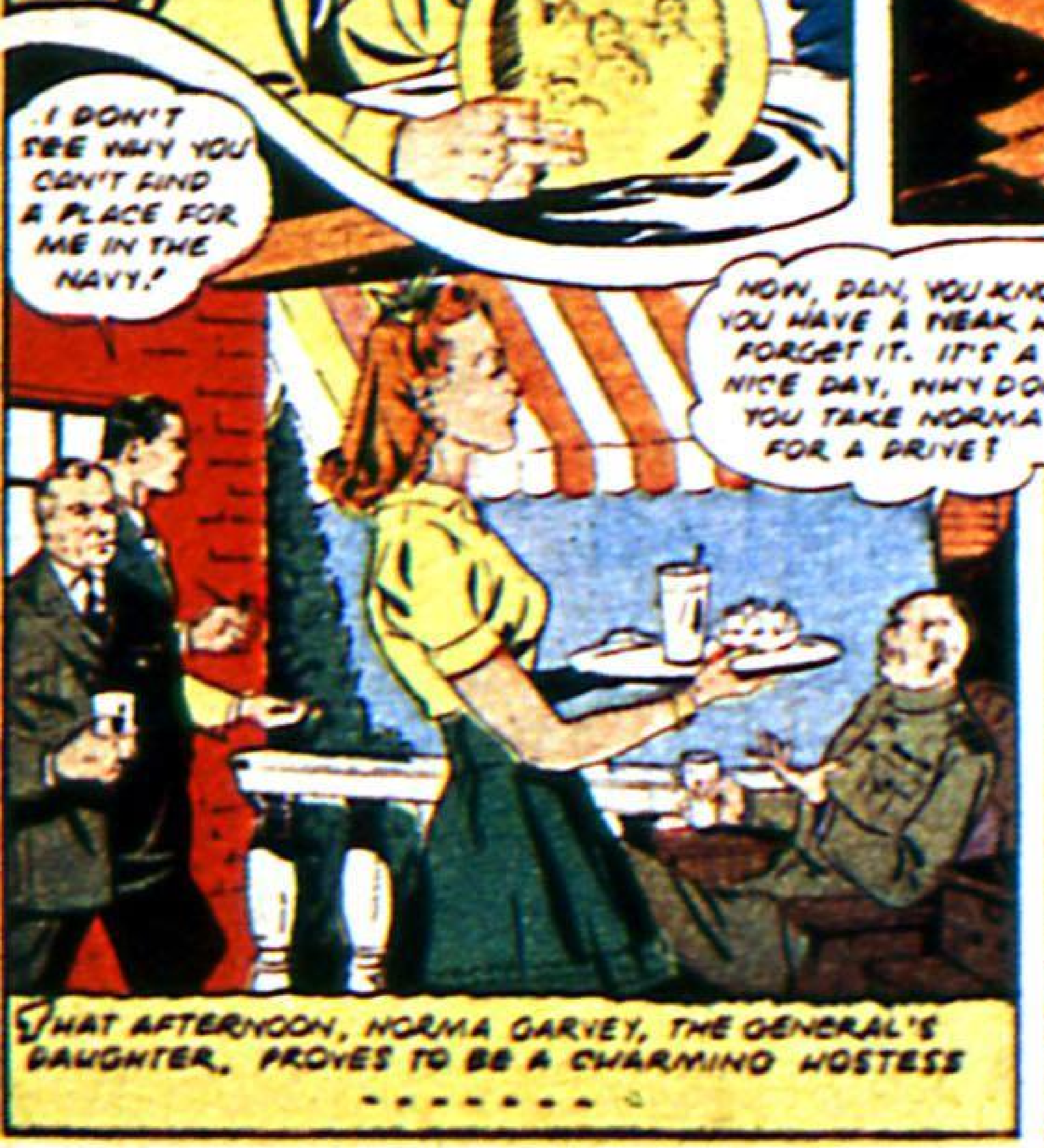

CAUGHT OFF GUARD, CAPTAIN TERROR IS STUNNED BY A BRUTAL BLOW.
NIZE VORK, FRITZ!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE SHRILL, WARNING NOTES OF A POLICE SIREN ARE HEARD!
WE HAVEN'T TIME TO FINISH HIM OFF! LET'S GET OUDT UFF HERE!
THE POLICE!
AFTER HANS AND HIS MEN HAVE GONE, CAPTAIN TERROR QUICKLY RECOVERS HIS SENSES!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!
I'LL BE O.K. IN A SECOND!
BE CAREFUL PROFESSOR, THAT MAN WAS HANS SHILLER, A NAZI AGENT. HE'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET THE FORMULA. I'VE MET UP WITH HIM BEFORE!
WAIT! THE POLICE ARE AT THE DOOR!
I HAVEN'T TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS, PROFESSOR, I'VE GOT TO GO!
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT HANS SCHILLER PAYS A VISIT TO ANOTHER FIFTH COLUMNIST — BLACK CARLO, THE GYPSY CHIEF!
THE INFERNAL CAPTAIN TERROR PREVENTED ME FROM GETTING DER FORMULA LAST NIGHT!
CAPTAIN TERROR! HE DISAPPEARED AFTER THE SPANISH WAR!
YAH, HE DISAPPEARED BUT, HE ISS BACK! VE MUST BE MORE CLEVER THAN HE. DOT ISS VHY I HAFF COME TO YOU. YOU MUST GET DOT FORMULA AT ANY COST!
I WILL GET IT! MY MAGIC CRYSTAL WILL REVEAL TO ME EVERY MOVE THE PROFESSOR MAKES!

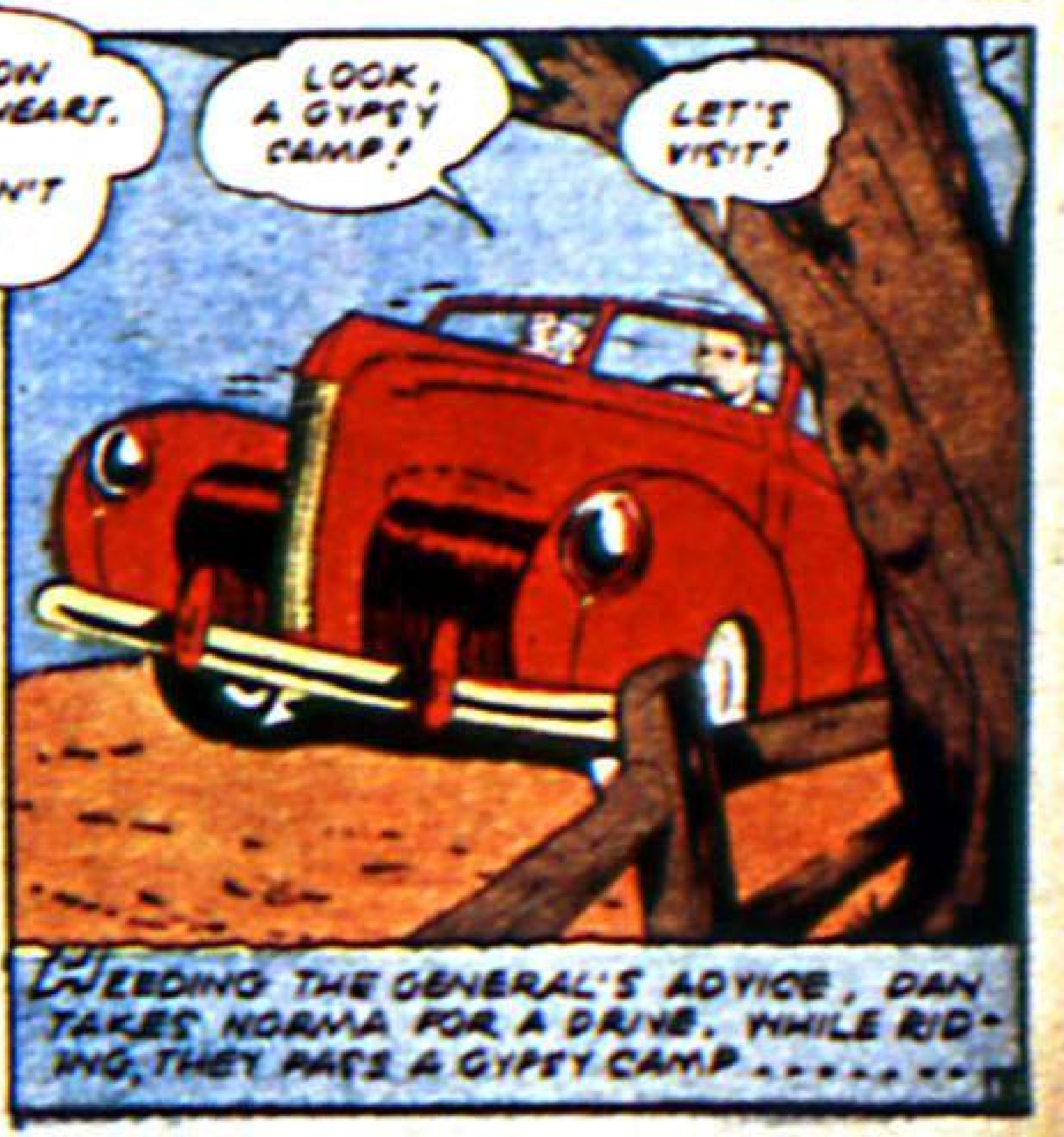

TWO WEEKS LATER, A MILITARY COMMISSION IS TESTING THE SECRET PAINT AT FORT GREGORY FLYING-FIELD.
KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, PROFESSOR!
DON'T WORRY, DAN!

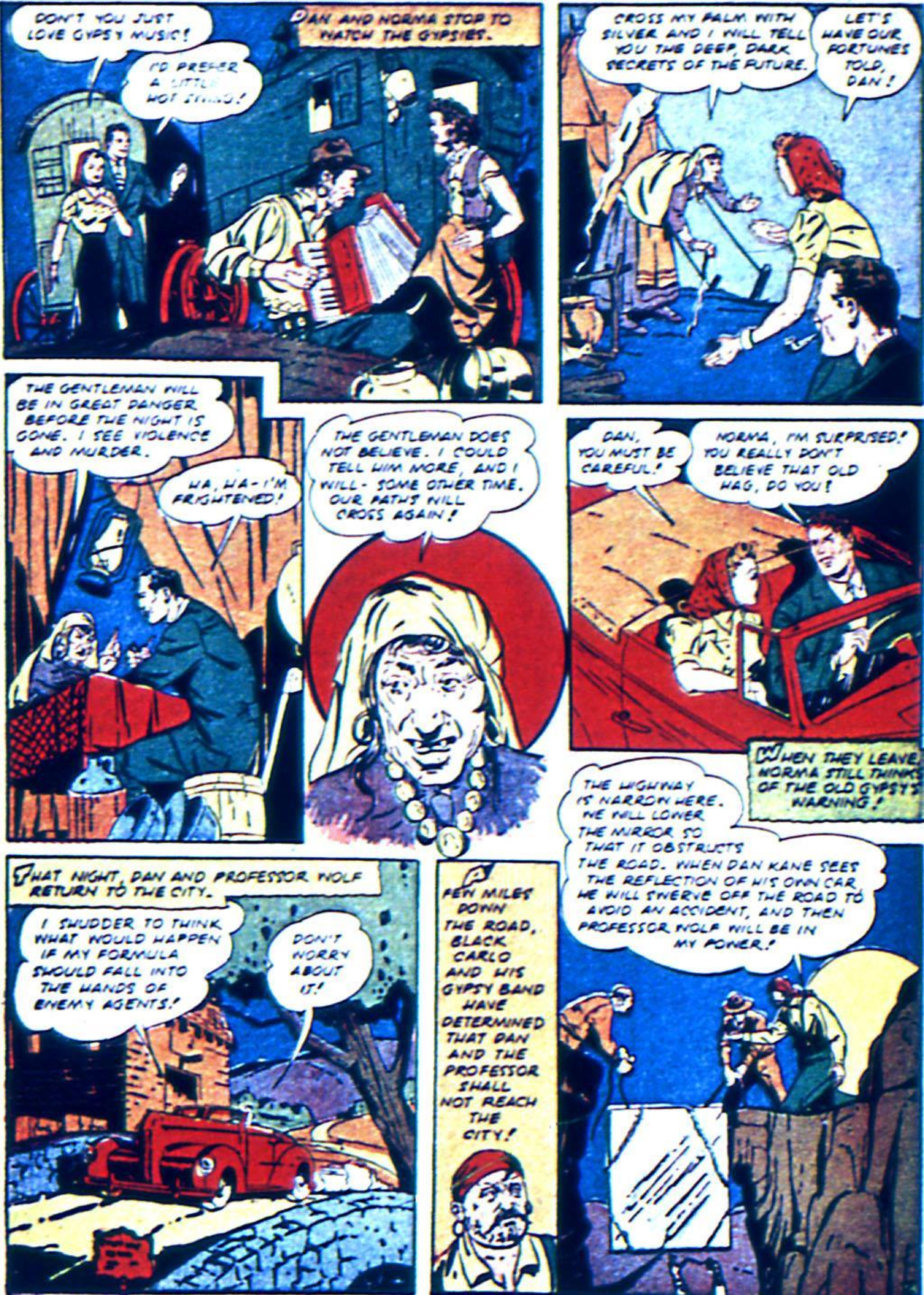

IT'S AMAZING! THE PLANE VANISHED AT TWO HUNDRED!
I CAN HEAR THE MOTOR BUT I CAN'T SEE THE PLANE!
YIPPEE!
ADMIRAL LEEDS AND GENERAL GARVEY ARE AGHAST WITH ASTONISHMENT AS THE PLANE FADES FROM SIGHT.

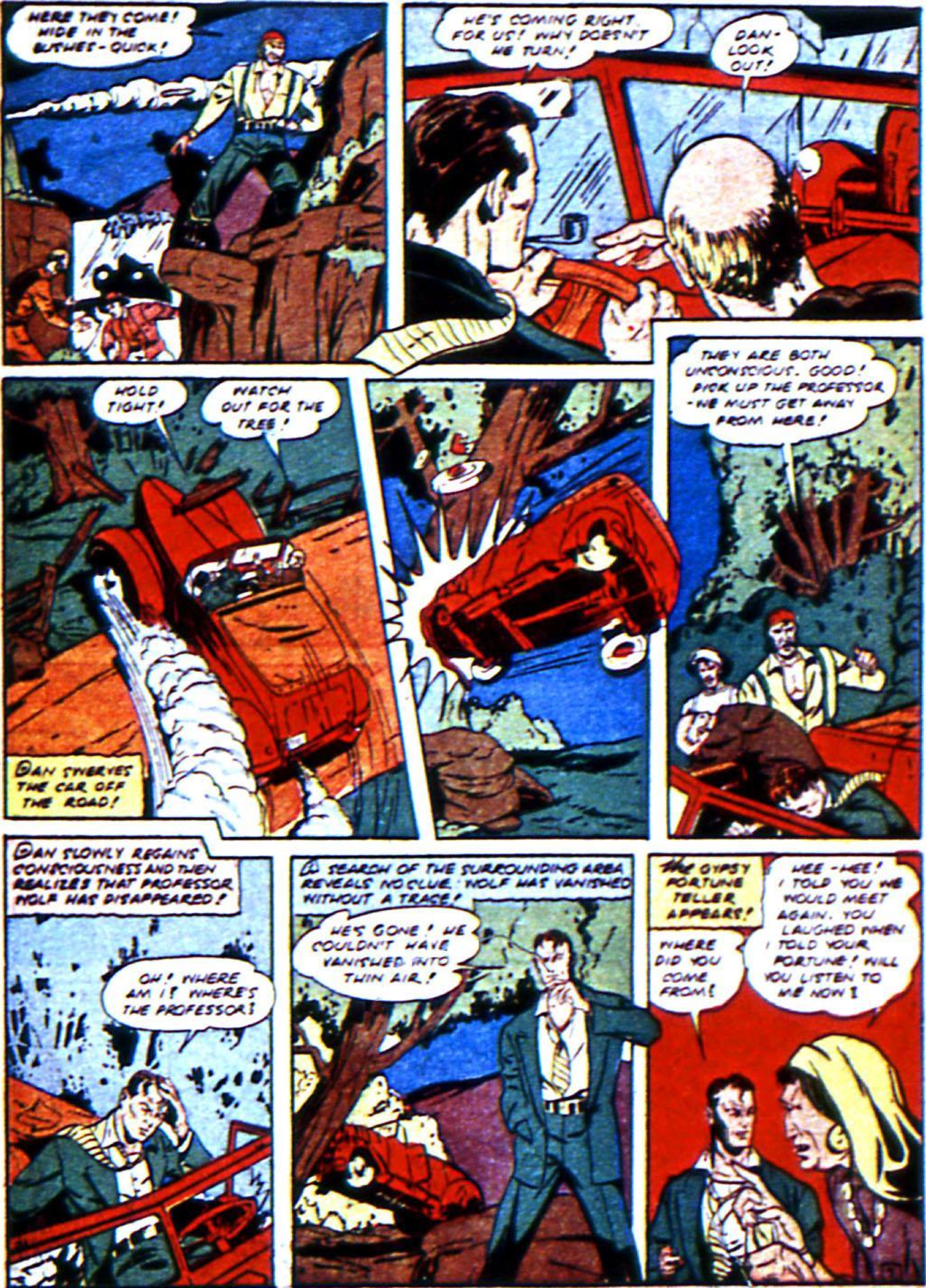

SOME DISTANCE FROM THE FIELD, BLACK CARLO OBSERVES THE TEST IN HIS MAGIC CRYSTAL.
HA! IT DOES MAKE PLANES INVISIBLE. I MUST GET THAT FORMULA. I WILL GET IT!

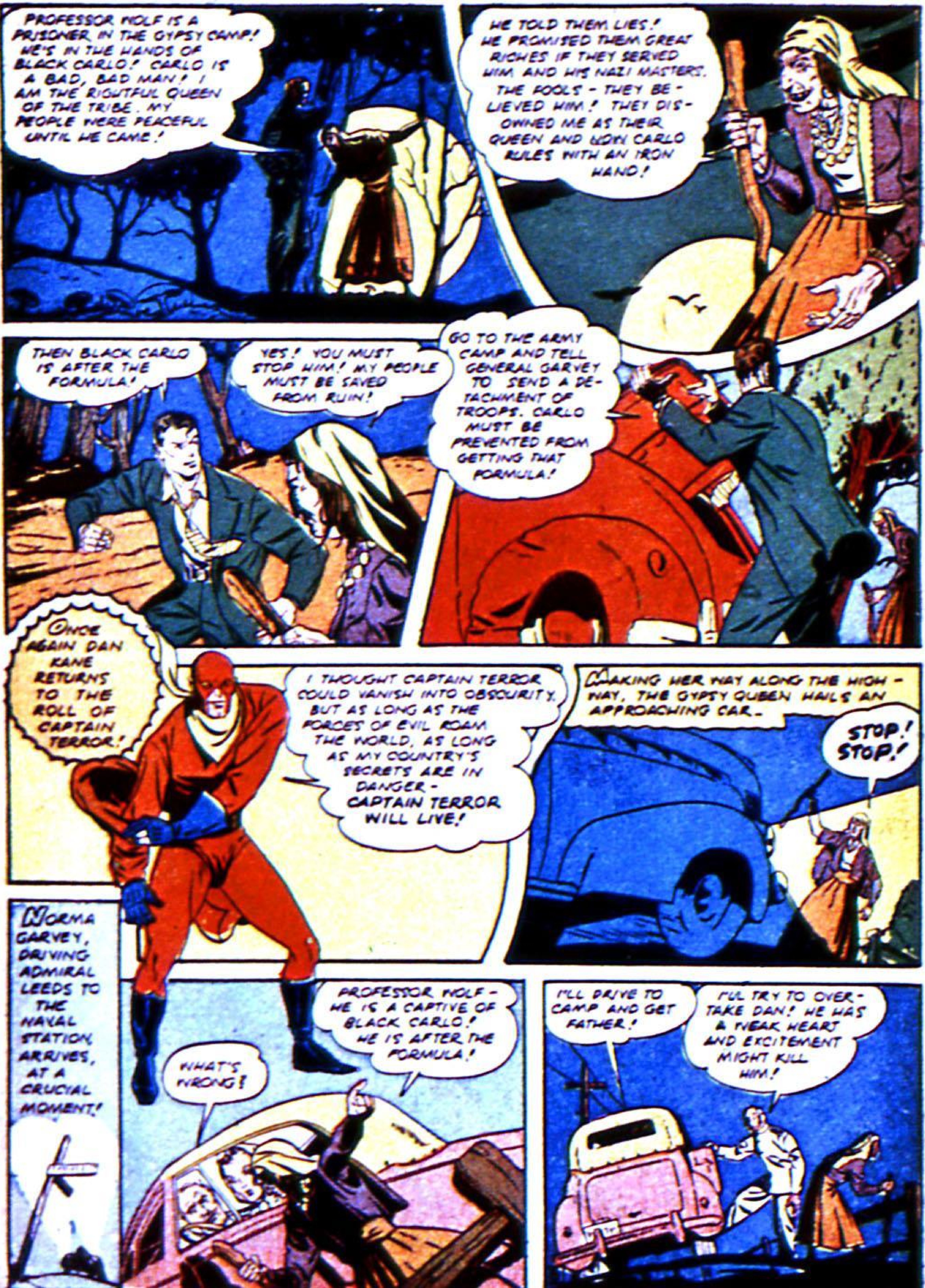

YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT THE WAR DEPARTMENT WILL AWARD YOU A LARGE CONTRACT FOR THIS PAINT!
IT'S ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE!

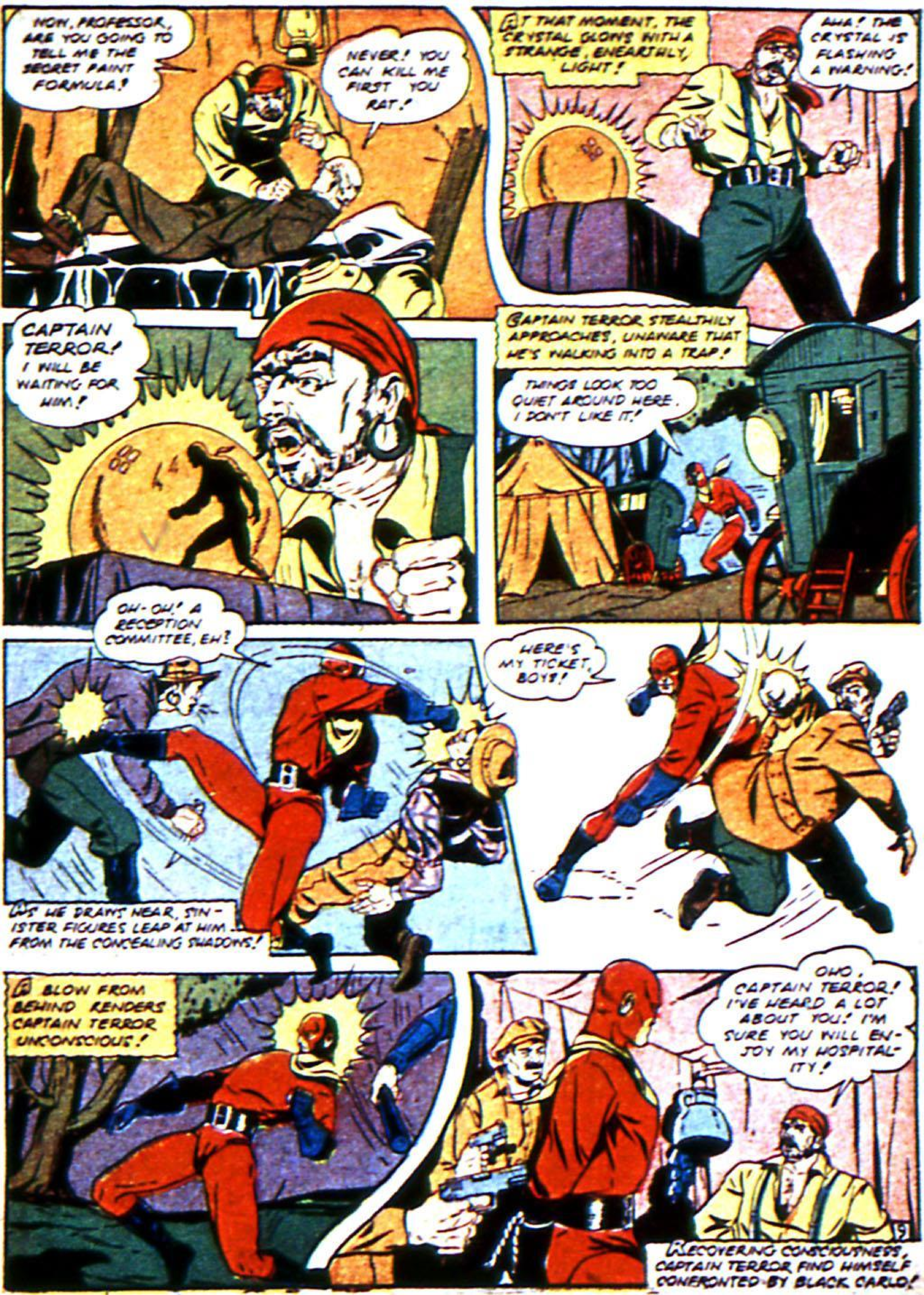

I DON'T SEE WHY YOU CAN'T FIND A PLACE FOR ME IN THE NAVY!
NOW, DAN, YOU KNOW YOU HAVE A WEAK HEART. FORGET IT. IT'S A NICE DAY, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE NORMA FOR A DRIVE!
THAT AFTERNOON, NORMA GARVEY, THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER, PROVES TO BE A CHARMING HOSTESS . . . . . .

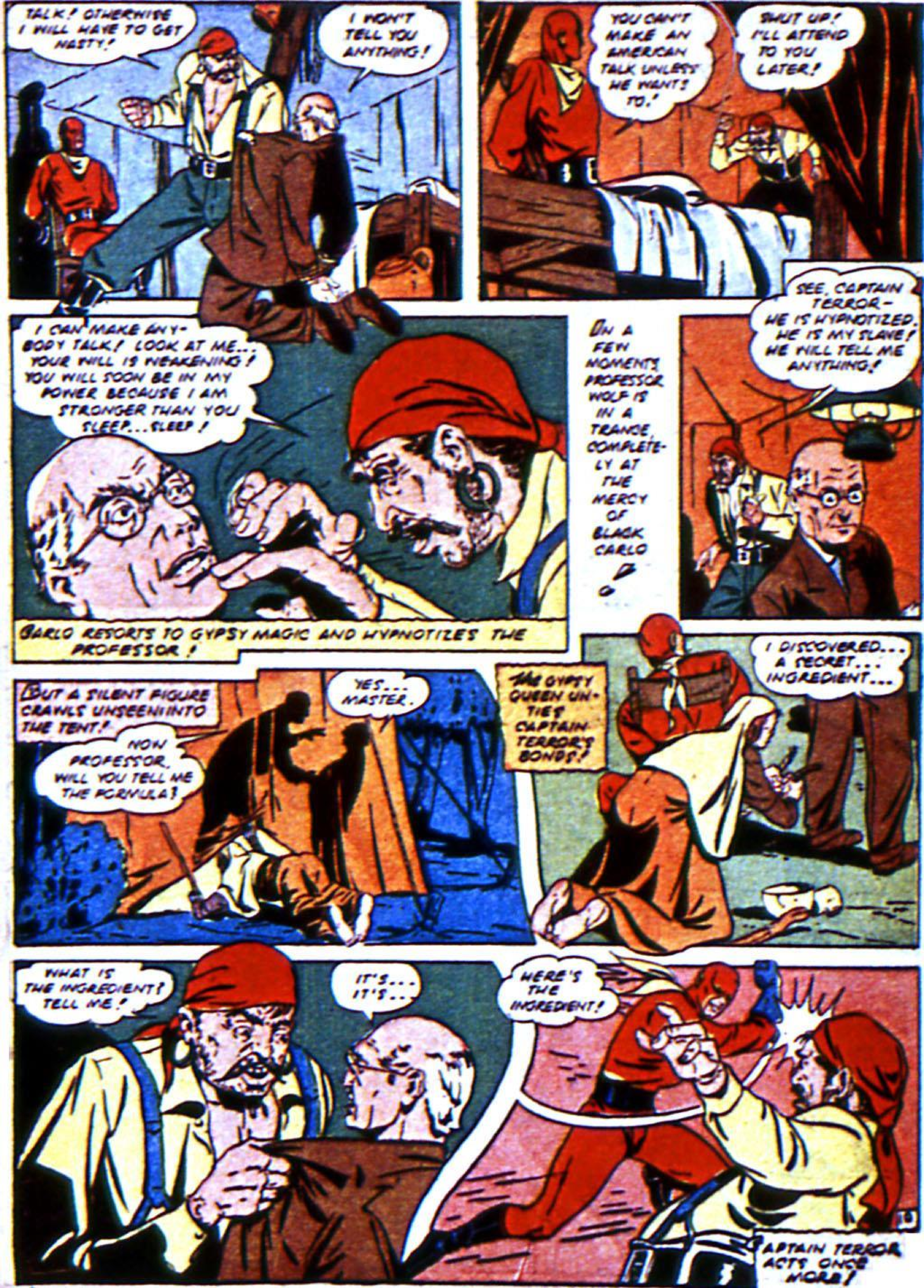

LOOK, A GYPSY CAMP!
LET'S VISIT!
HEEDING THE GENERAL'S ADVICE, DAN TAKES NORMA FOR A DRIVE. WHILE RIDING, THEY PASS A GYPSY CAMP . . . . . .

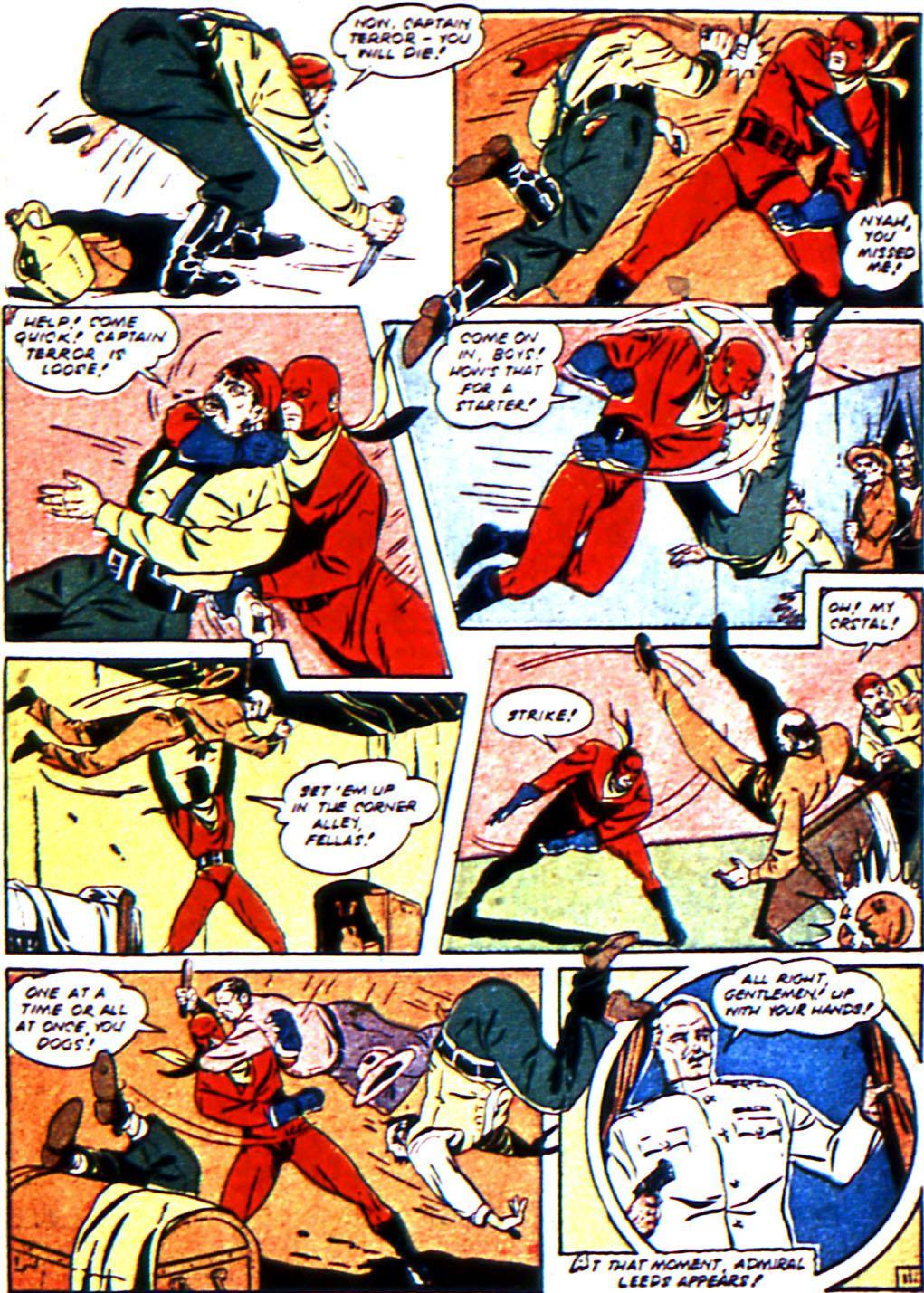

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE GYPSY MUSIC!
DAN AND NORMA STOP TO WATCH THE GYPSIES.
I'D PREFER A LITTLE HOT SWING!
CROSS MY PALM WITH SILVER AND I WILL TELL YOU THE DEEP, DARK SECRETS OF THE FUTURE.
LET'S HAVE OUR FORTUNES TOLD, DAN!
THE GENTLEMAN WILL BE IN GREAT DANGER BEFORE THE NIGHT IS GONE. I SEE VIOLENCE AND MURDER.
HA, HA-I'M FRIGHTENED!
THE GENTLEMAN DOES NOT BELIEVE. I COULD TELL HIM MORE, AND I WILL- SOME OTHER TIME. OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN!
DAN, YOU MUST BE CAREFUL!
NORMA, I'M SURPRISED! YOU REALLY DON'T BELIEVE THAT OLD HAG, DO YOU!
WHEN THEY LEAVE, NORMA STILL THINKS OF THE OLD GYPSY'S WARNING!
THAT NIGHT, DAN AND PROFESSOR WOLF RETURN TO THE CITY.
I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF MY FORMULA SHOULD FALL INTO THE HANDS OF ENEMY AGENTS!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
A FEW MILES DOWN THE ROAD, BLACK CARLO AND HIS GYPSY BAND HAVE DETERMINED THAT DAN AND THE PROFESSOR SHALL NOT REACH THE CITY!
THE HIGHWAY IS NARROW HERE. WE WILL LOWER THE MIRROR SO THAT IT OBSTRUCTS THE ROAD. WHEN DAN KANE SEES THE REFLECTION OF HIS OWN CAR HE WILL SWERVE OFF THE ROAD TO AVOID AN ACCIDENT, AND THEN PROFESSOR WOLF WILL BE IN MY POWER!

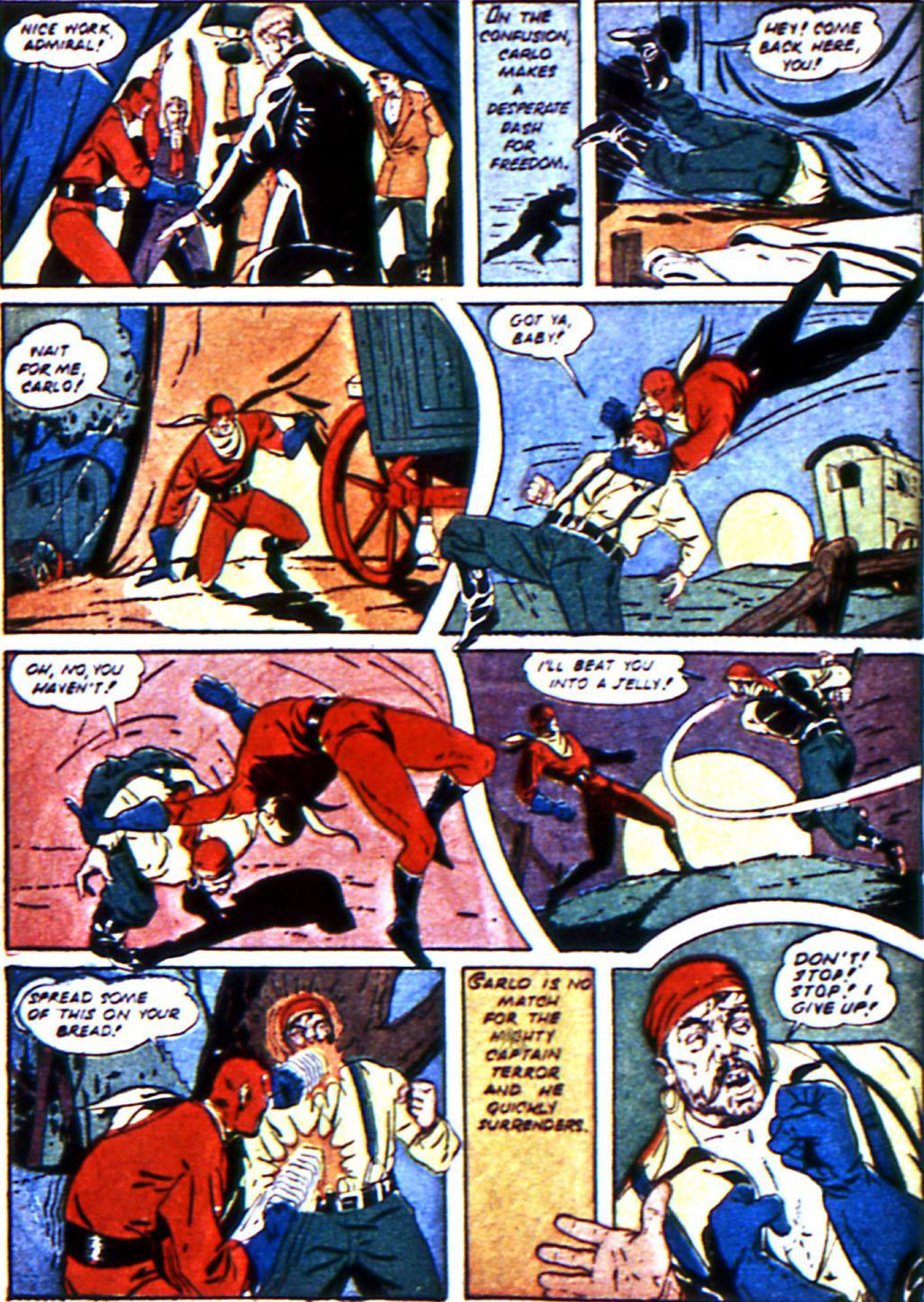

HERE THEY COME! HIDE IN THE BUSHES - QUICK!
HE'S COMING RIGHT FOR US! WHY DOESN'T HE TURN!
DAN- LOOK OUT!
HOLD TIGHT!
WATCH OUT FOR THE TREE!
DAN SWERVES THE CAR OFF THE ROAD!
THEY ARE BOTH UNCONSCIOUS. GOOD! PICK UP THE PROFESSOR -WE MUST GET AWAY FROM HERE!
DAN SLOWLY REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS AND THEN REALIZES THAT PROFESSOR WOLF HAS DISAPPEARED!
OH! WHERE AM I! WHERE'S THE PROFESSOR!
A SEARCH OF THE SURROUNDING AREA REVEALS NO CLUE. WOLF HAS VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!
HE'S GONE! HE COULDN'T HAVE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!
THE GYPSY FORTUNE TELLER APPEARS!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM!
HEE-HEE! I TOLD YOU WE WOULD MEET AGAIN. YOU LAUGHED WHEN I TOLD YOUR FORTUNE! WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME NOW?

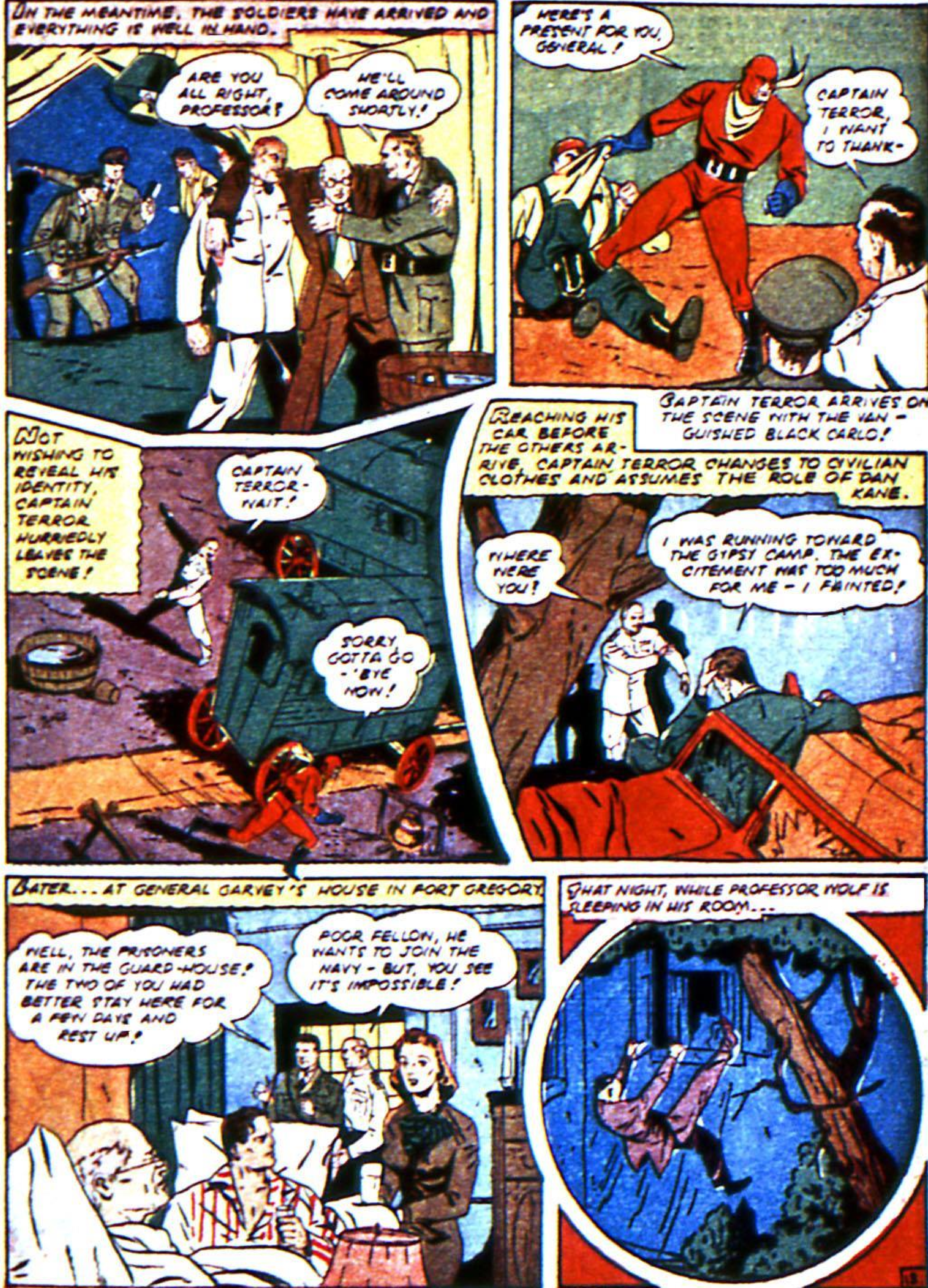

PROFESSOR WOLF IS A PRISONER IN THE GYPSY CAMP! HE'S IN THE HANDS OF BLACK CARLO! CARLO IS A BAD, BAD MAN! I AM THE RIGHTFUL QUEEN OF THE TRIBE. MY PEOPLE WERE PEACEFUL UNTIL HE CAME!
HE TOLD THEM LIES! HE PROMISED THEM GREAT RICHES IF THEY SERVED HIM AND HIS NAZI MASTERS. THE FOOLS - THEY BELIEVED HIM! THEY DISOWNED ME AS THEIR QUEEN AND NOW CARLO RULES WITH AN IRON HAND!
THEN BLACK CARLO IS AFTER THE FORMULA!
YES! YOU MUST STOP HIM! MY PEOPLE MUST BE SAVED FROM RUIN!
GO TO THE ARMY CAMP AND TELL GENERAL GARVEY TO SEND A DETACHMENT OF TROOPS. CARLO MUST BE PREVENTED FROM GETTING THAT FORMULA!
ONCE AGAIN DAN KANE RETURNS TO THE ROLL OF CAPTAIN TERROR!
I THOUGHT CAPTAIN TERROR COULD VANISH INTO OBSCURITY, BUT AS LONG AS THE FORCES OF EVIL ROAM THE WORLD, AS LONG AS MY COUNTRY'S SECRETS ARE IN DANGER - CAPTAIN TERROR WILL LIVE!
MAKING HER WAY ALONG THE HIGHWAY, THE GYPSY QUEEN HAILS AN APPROACHING CAR...
STOP! STOP!
NORMA GARVEY, DRIVING ADMIRAL LEEDS TO THE NAVAL STATION, ARRIVES, AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT!
WHAT'S WRONG?
PROFESSOR WOLF - HE IS A CAPTIVE OF BLACK CARLO! HE IS AFTER THE FORMULA!
I'LL DRIVE TO CAMP AND GET FATHER!
I'LL TRY TO OVERTAKE DAN! HE HAS A WEAK HEART AND EXCITEMENT MIGHT KILL HIM!

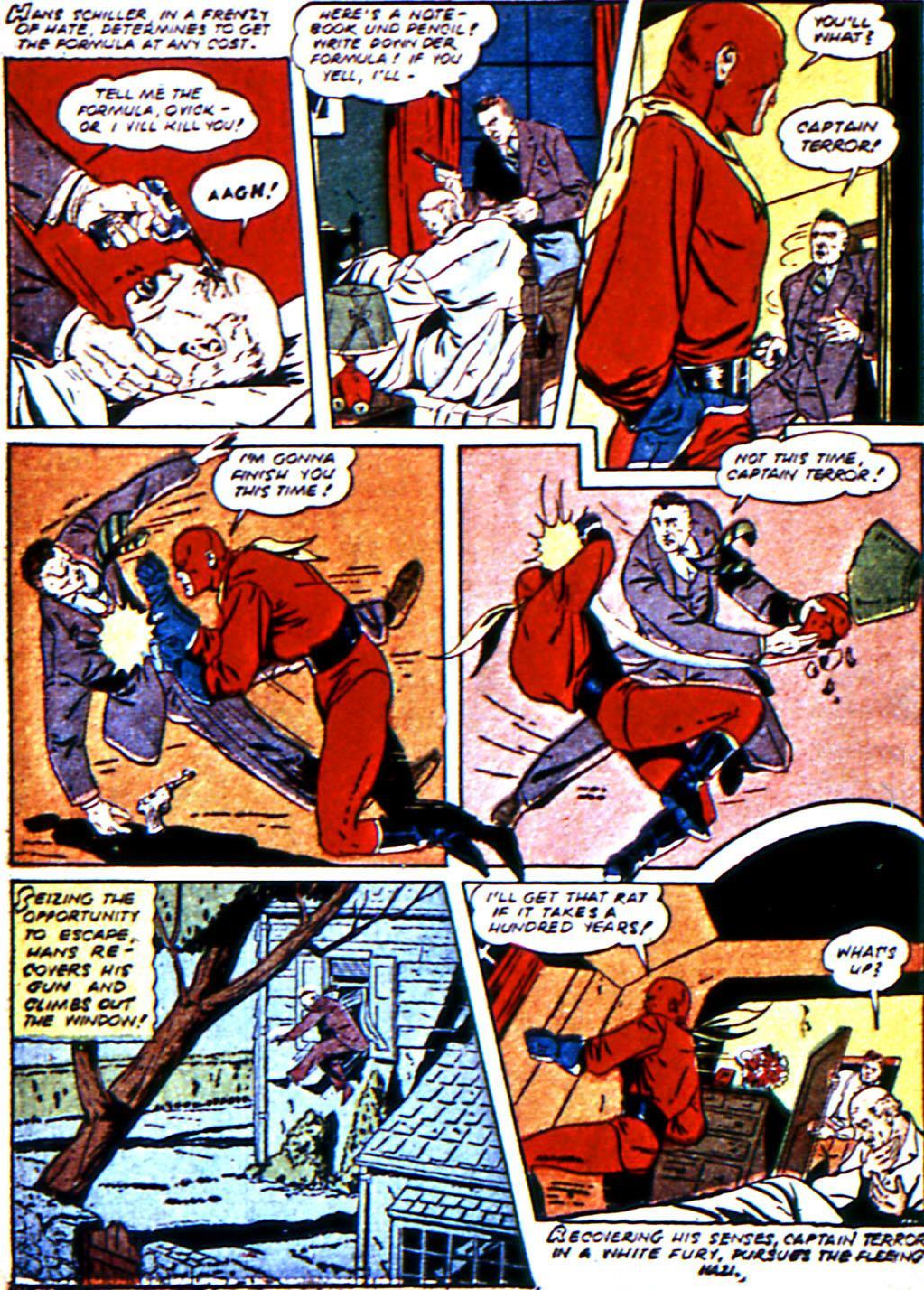

NOW, PROFESSOR, ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME THE SECRET PAINT FORMULA!
NEVER! YOU CAN KILL ME FIRST YOU RAT!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE CRYSTAL GLOWS WITH A STRANGE, UNEARTHLY, LIGHT!
AHA! THE CRYSTAL IS FLASHING A WARNING!
CAPTAIN TERROR! I WILL BE WAITING FOR HIM!
CAPTAIN TERROR STEALTHILY APPROACHES, UNAWARE THAT HE'S WALKING INTO A TRAP!
THINGS LOOK TOO QUIET AROUND HERE. I DON'T LIKE IT!
OH-OH! A RECEPTION COMMITTEE, EH?
AS HE DRAWS NEAR, SINISTER FIGURES LEAP AT HIM FROM THE CONCEALING SHADOWS!
HERE'S MY TICKET, BOYS!
A BLOW FROM BEHIND RENDERS CAPTAIN TERROR UNCONSCIOUS!
OHO, CAPTAIN TERROR! I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU! I'M SURE YOU WILL ENJOY MY HOSPITALITY!
RECOVERING CONSCIOUSNESS, CAPTAIN TERROR FIND HIMSELF CONFRONTED BY BLACK CARLO!

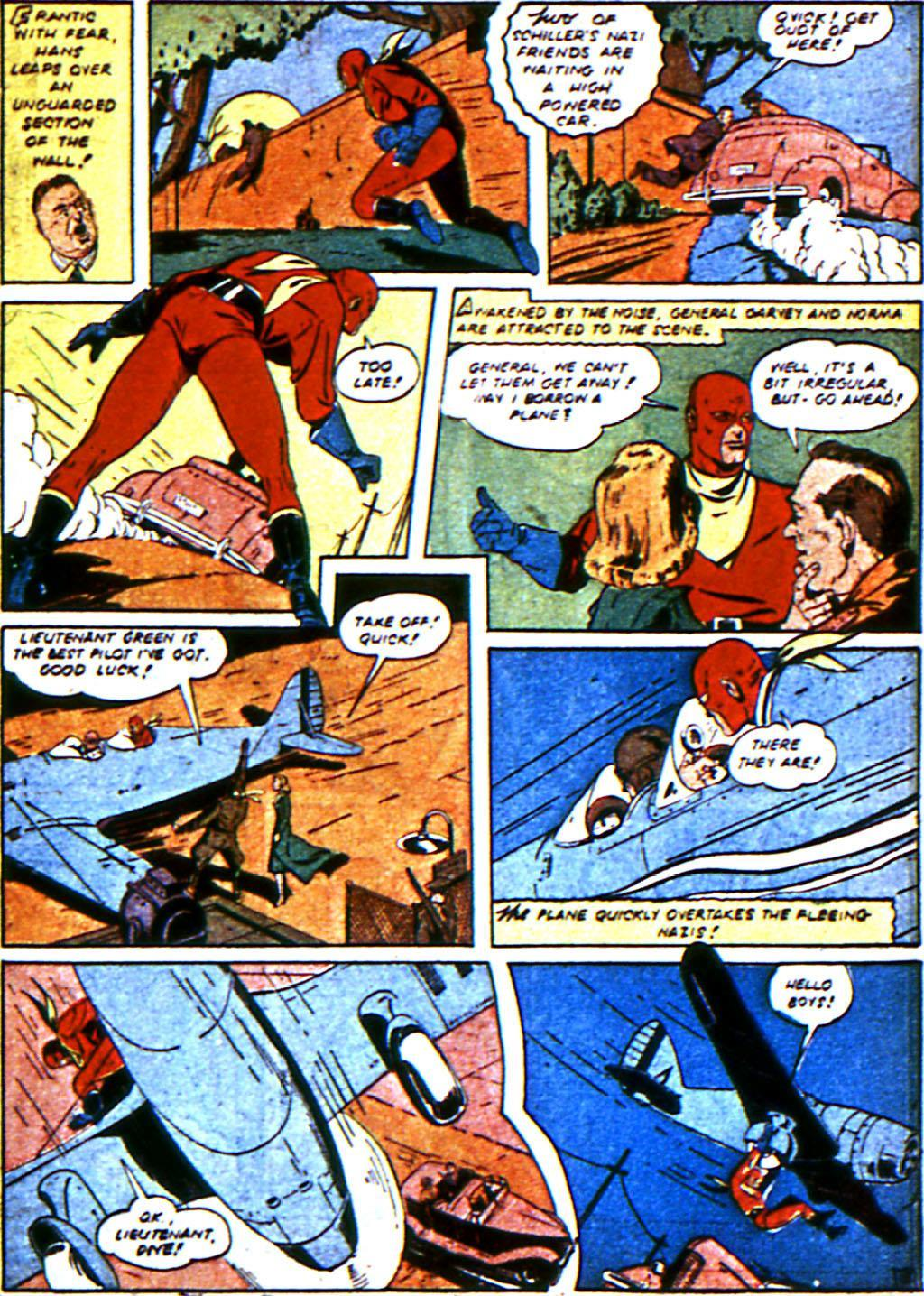

TALK! OTHERWISE I WILL HAVE TO GET NASTY!
I WON'T TELL YOU ANYTHING!
YOU CAN'T MAKE AN AMERICAN TALK UNLESS HE WANTS TO!
SHUT UP! I'LL ATTEND TO YOU LATER!
I CAN MAKE ANYBODY TALK! LOOK AT ME... YOUR WILL IS WEAKENING! YOU WILL SOON BE IN MY POWER BECAUSE I AM STRONGER THAN YOU SLEEP... SLEEP!
CARLO RESORTS TO GYPSY MAGIC AND HYPNOTIZES THE PROFESSOR!
IN A FEW MOMENTS PROFESSOR WOLF IS IN A TRANCE, COMPLETELY AT THE MERCY OF BLACK CARLO
SEE, CAPTAIN TERROR– HE IS HYPNOTIZED. HE IS MY SLAVE! HE WILL TELL ME ANYTHING!
BUT A SILENT FIGURE CRAWLS UNSEEN INTO THE TENT!
YES... MASTER.
NOW PROFESSOR, WILL YOU TELL ME THE FORMULA?
THE GYPSY QUEEN UNTIES CAPTAIN TERROR'S BONDS!
I DISCOVERED... A SECRET... INGREDIENT...
WHAT IS THE INGREDIENT? TELL ME!
IT'S... IT'S...
HERE'S THE INGREDIENT!
CAPTAIN TERROR ACTS ONCE MORE!

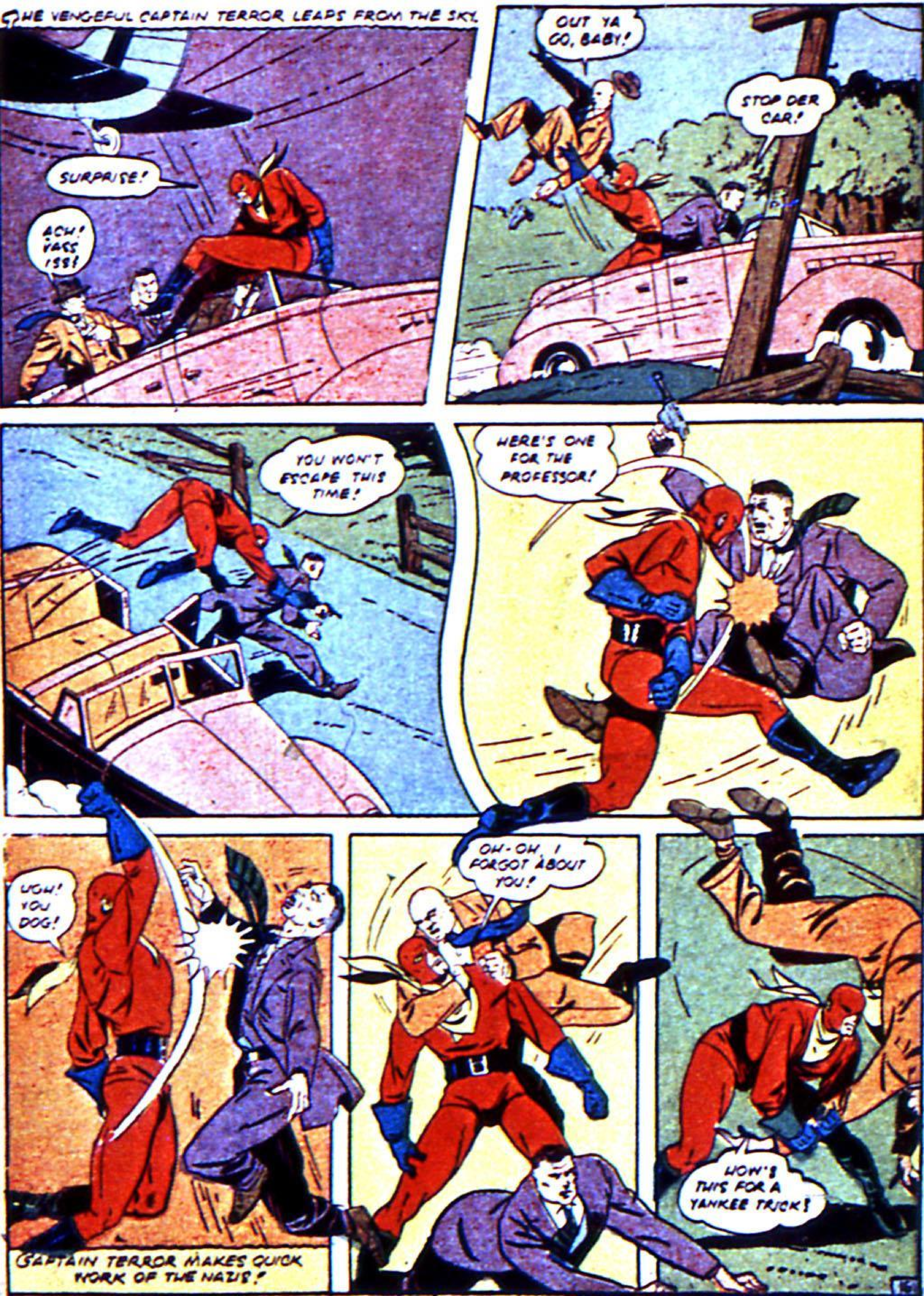

NOW, CAPTAIN TERROR - YOU WILL DIE!
NYAH, YOU MISSED ME!
HELP! COME QUICK! CAPTAIN TERROR IS LOOSE!
COME ON IN, BOYS! HOW'S THAT FOR A STARTER!
SET 'EM UP IN THE CORNER ALLEY, FELLAS!
OH! MY CRSTAL!
STRIKE!
ONE AT A TIME OR ALL AT ONCE, YOU DOGS!
ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN! UP WITH YOUR HANDS!
AT THAT MOMENT, ADMIRAL LEEDS APPEARS!

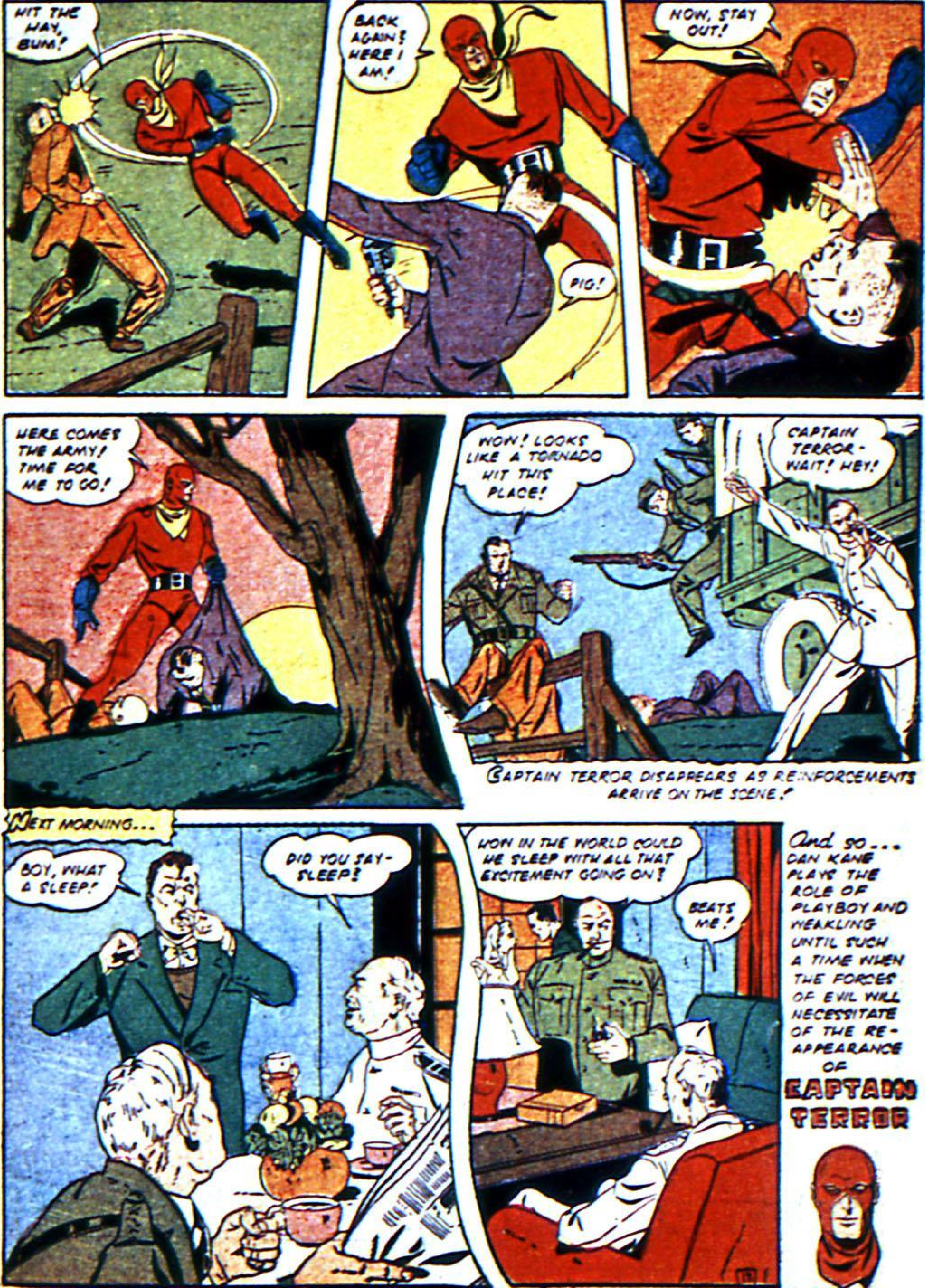

NICE WORK, ADMIRAL!
IN THE CONFUSION, CARLO MAKES A DESPERATE DASH FOR FREEDOM.
HEY! COME BACK HERE, YOU!
WAIT FOR ME, CARLO!
GOT YA, BABY!
OH, NO, YOU HAVEN'T!
I'LL BEAT YOU INTO A JELLY!
SPREAD SOME OF THIS ON YOUR BREAD!
CARLO IS NO MATCH FOR THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN TERROR AND HE QUICKLY SURRENDERS.
DON'T! STOP! STOP! I GIVE UP!

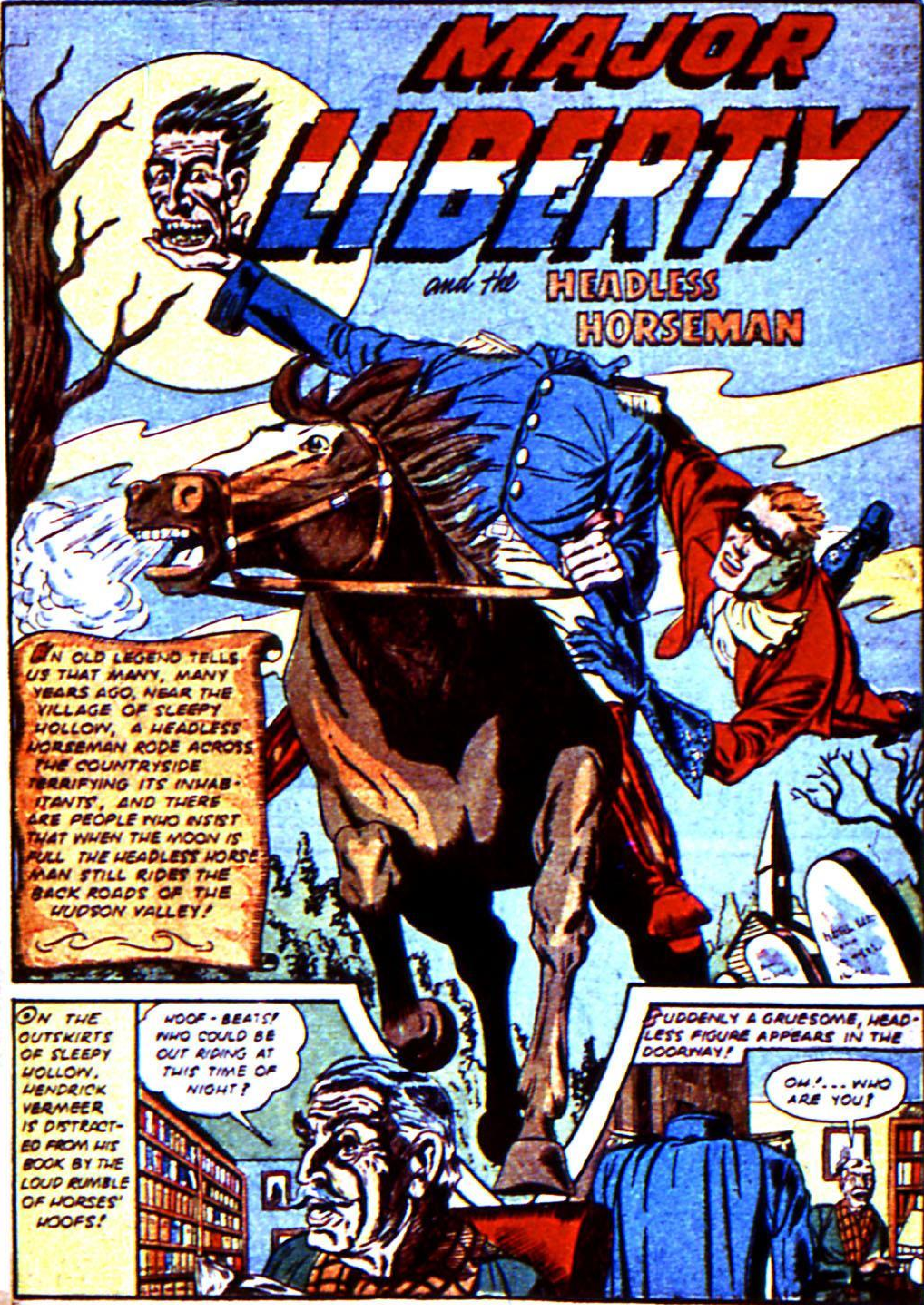

IN THE MEANTIME, THE SOLDIERS HAVE ARRIVED AND EVERYTHING IS WELL IN HAND.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, PROFESSOR?
HE'LL COME AROUND SHORTLY!
HERE'S A PRESENT FOR YOU, GENERAL!
CAPTAIN TERROR, I WANT TO THANK-
CAPTAIN TERROR ARRIVES ON THE SCENE WITH THE VANQUISHED BLACK CARLO!
NOT WISHING TO REVEAL HIS IDENTITY, CAPTAIN TERROR HURRIEDLY LEAVES THE SCENE!
CAPTAIN TERROR- WAIT!
SORRY, GOTTA GO -'BYE NOW!
REACHING HIS CAR BEFORE THE OTHERS ARRIVE, CAPTAIN TERROR CHANGES TO CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND ASSUMES THE ROLE OF DAN KANE.
WHERE WERE YOU!
I WAS RUNNING TOWARD THE GYPSY CAMP. THE EXCITEMENT WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME - I FAINTED!
LATER... AT GENERAL GARVEY'S HOUSE IN FORT GREGORY.
WELL, THE PRISONERS ARE IN THE GUARD-HOUSE! THE TWO OF YOU HAD BETTER STAY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS AND REST UP!
POOR FELLOW, HE WANTS TO JOIN THE NAVY - BUT, YOU SEE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THAT NIGHT, WHILE PROFESSOR WOLF IS SLEEPING IN HIS ROOM...

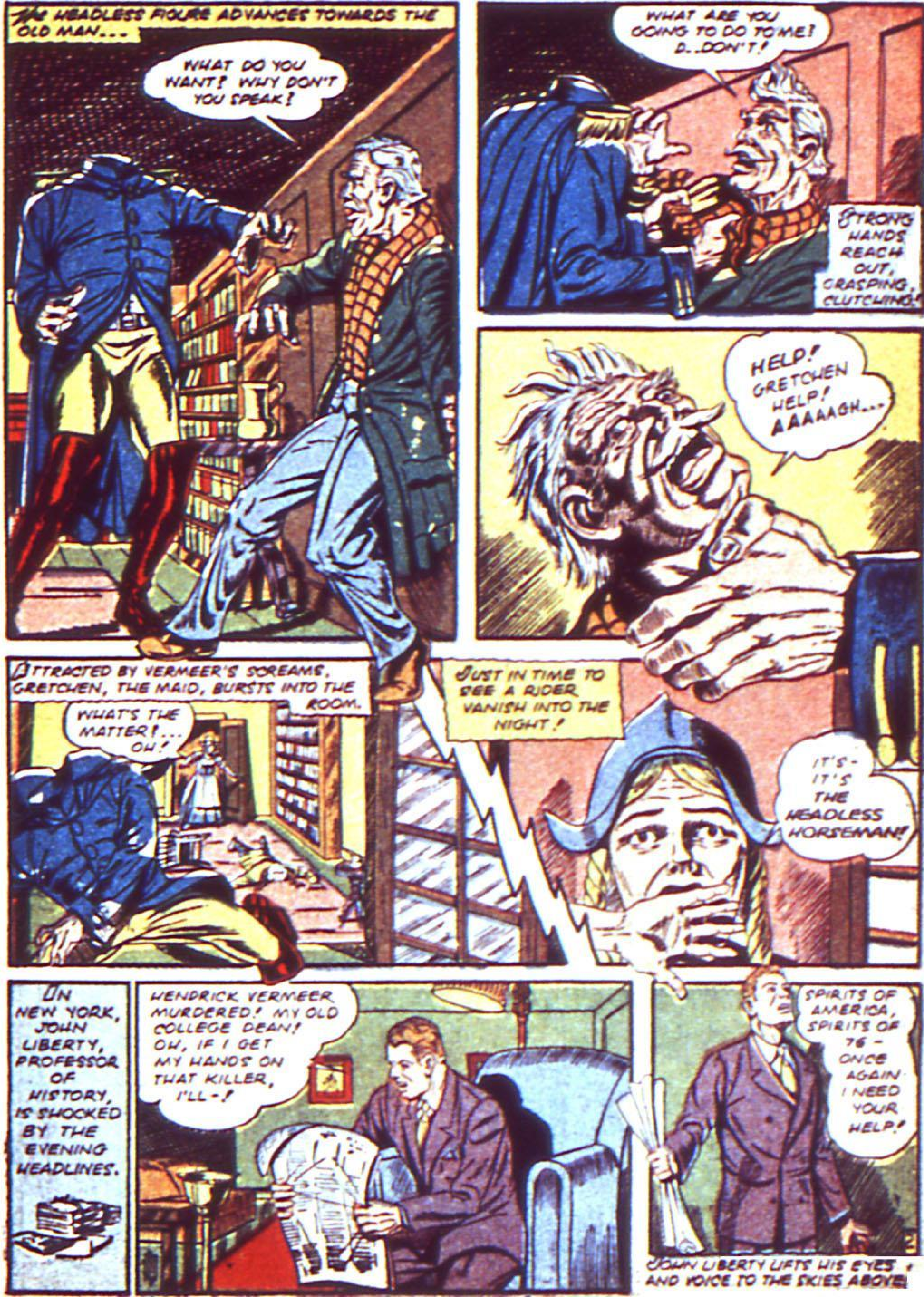

HANS SCHILLER, IN A FRENZY OF HATE, DETERMINES TO GET THE FORMULA AT ANY COST.
TELL ME THE FORMULA, QVICK — OR I VILL KILL YOU!
AAGH!
HERE'S A NOTE-BOOK UND PENCIL! WRITE DOWN DER FORMULA! IF YOU YELL, I'LL -
YOU'LL WHAT?
CAPTAIN TERROR!
I'M GONNA FINISH YOU THIS TIME!
NOT THIS TIME, CAPTAIN TERROR!
SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE, HANS RECOVERS HIS GUN AND CLIMBS OUT THE WINDOW!
I'LL GET THAT RAT IF IT TAKES A HUNDRED YEARS!
WHAT'S UP?
RECOVERING HIS SENSES, CAPTAIN TERROR IN A WHITE FURY, PURSUES THE FLEEING NAZI.

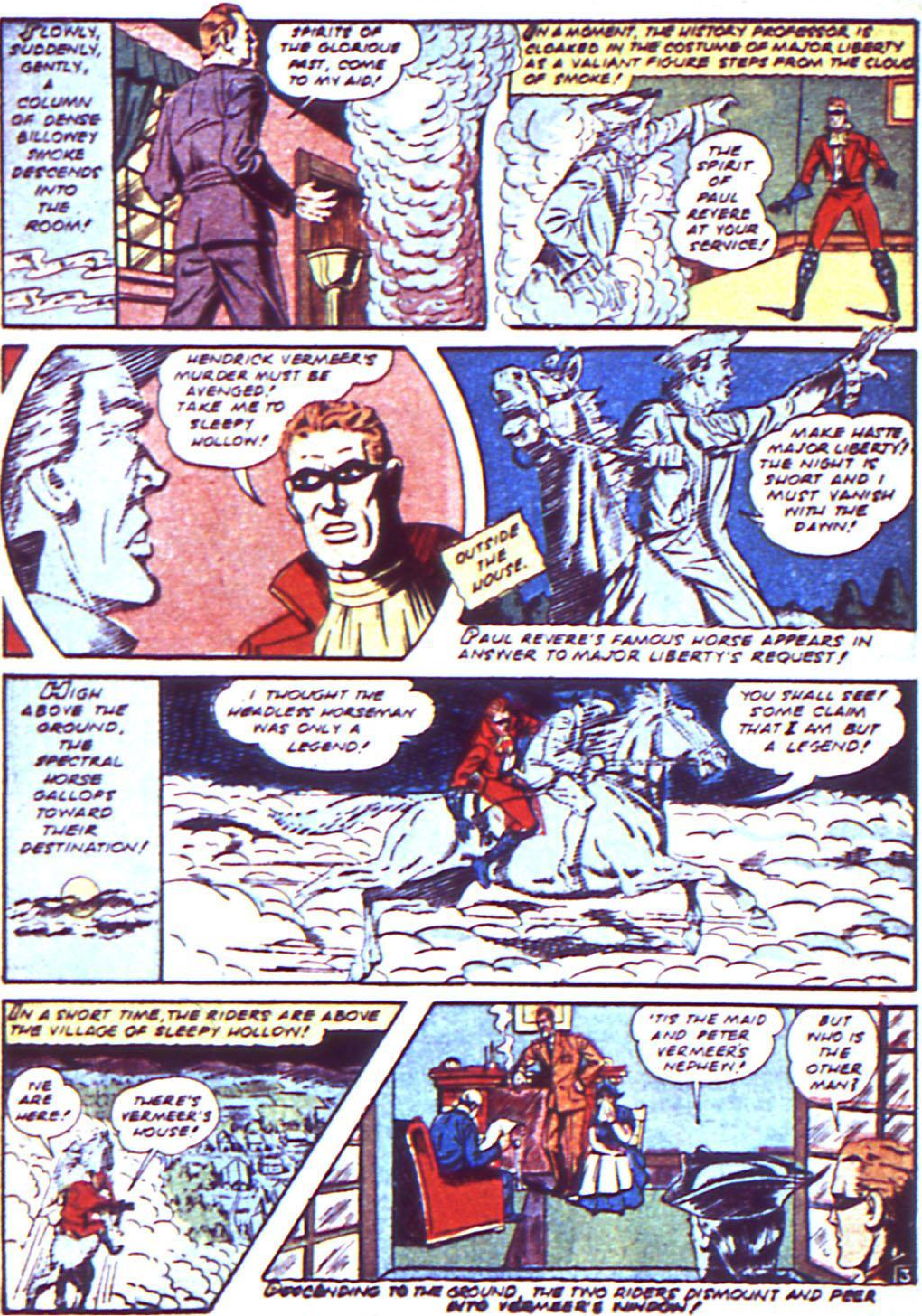

FRANTIC WITH FEAR, HANS LEAPS OVER AN UNGUARDED SECTION OF THE WALL!
TWO OF SCHILLER'S NAZI FRIENDS ARE WAITING IN A HIGH POWERED CAR.
QUICK! GET OUOT OF HERE!
TOO LATE!
AWAKENED BY THE NOISE, GENERAL GARVEY AND NORMA ARE ATTRACTED TO THE SCENE.
GENERAL, WE CAN'T LET THEM GET AWAY! MAY I BORROW A PLANE?
WELL, IT'S A BIT IRREGULAR, BUT- GO AHEAD!
LIEUTENANT GREEN IS THE BEST PILOT I'VE GOT. GOOD LUCK!
TAKE OFF! QUICK!
THERE THEY ARE!
THE PLANE QUICKLY OVERTAKES THE FLEEING NAZIS!
O.K., LIEUTENANT, DIVE!
HELLO BOYS!

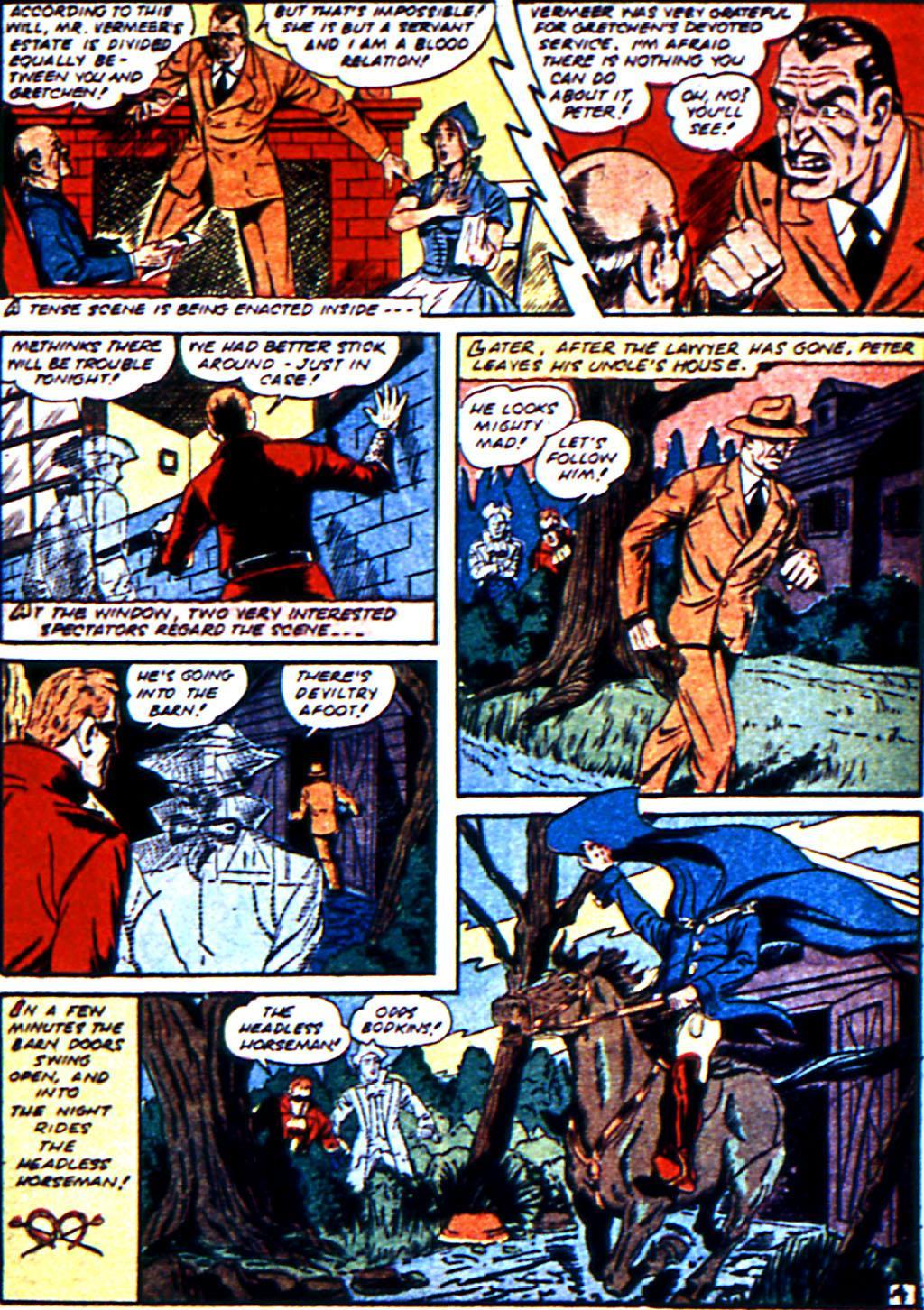

THE VENGEFUL CAPTAIN TERROR LEAPS FROM THE SKY.
SURPRISE!
ACH! VASS ISS!
OUT YA GO, BABY!
STOP DER CAR!
YOU WON'T ESCAPE THIS TIME!
HERE'S ONE FOR THE PROFESSOR!
UGH! YOU DOG!
OH-OH, I FORGOT ABOUT YOU!
HOW'S THIS FOR A YANKEE TRICK!
CAPTAIN TERROR MAKES QUICK WORK OF THE NAZIS!

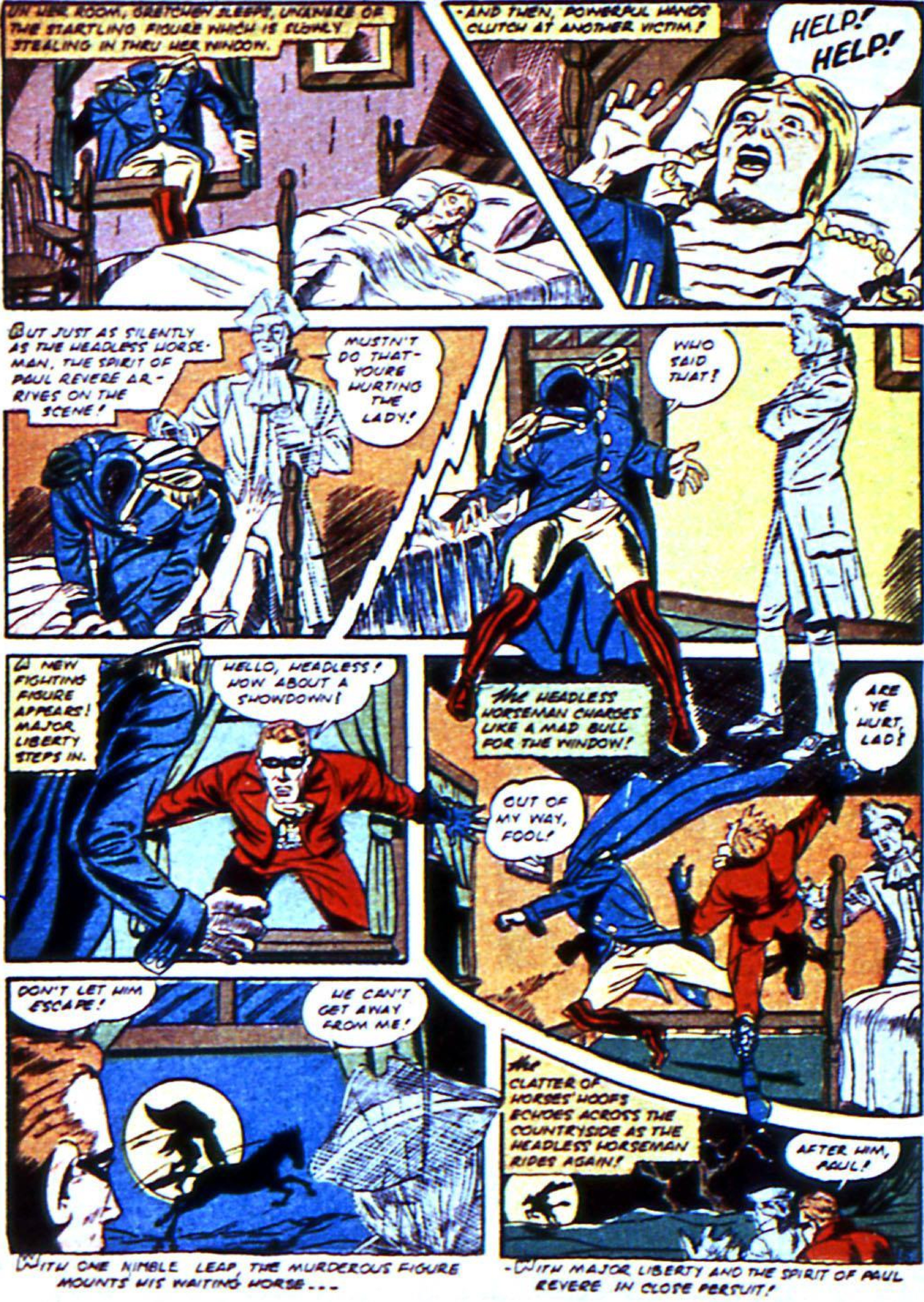

HIT THE WAY, BUM!
BACK AGAIN! HERE I AM!
PIG!
NOW, STAY OUT!
HERE COMES THE ARMY! TIME FOR ME TO GO!
WOW! LOOKS LIKE A TORNADO HIT THIS PLACE!
CAPTAIN TERROR-WAIT! HEY!
CAPTAIN TERROR DISAPPEARS AS REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE ON THE SCENE!
NEXT MORNING...
BOY, WHAT A SLEEP!
DID YOU SAY-SLEEP!
HOW IN THE WORLD COULD HE SLEEP WITH ALL THAT EXCITEMENT GOING ON?
BEATS ME!
And so... DAN KANE PLAYS THE ROLE OF PLAYBOY AND WEAKLING UNTIL SUCH A TIME WHEN THE FORCES OF EVIL WILL NECESSITATE OF THE RE-APPEARANCE OF
CAPTAIN TERROR

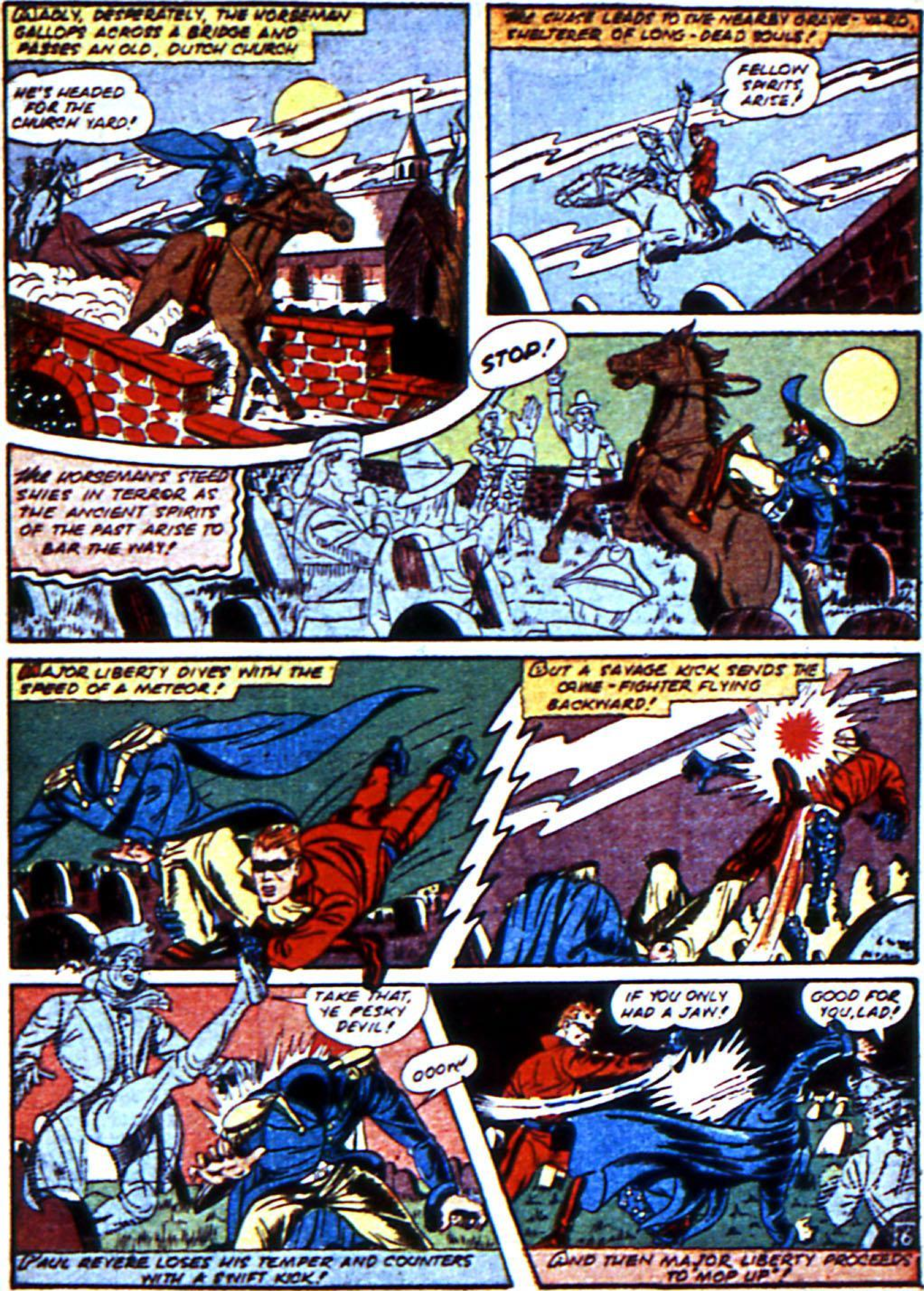

MAJOR LIBERTY
and the HEADLESS HORSEMAN
AN OLD LEGEND TELLS US THAT MANY, MANY YEARS AGO, NEAR THE VILLAGE OF SLEEPY HOLLOW, A HEADLESS HORSEMAN RODE ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE TERRIFYING ITS INHABITANTS, AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO INSIST THAT WHEN THE MOON IS FULL THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN STILL RIDES THE BACK ROADS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY!
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SLEEPY HOLLOW, HENDRICK VERMEER IS DISTRACTED FROM HIS BOOK BY THE LOUD RUMBLE OF HORSES' HOOFS!
HOOF-BEATS! WHO COULD BE OUT RIDING AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
SUDDENLY A GRUESOME, HEADLESS FIGURE APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY!
OH!... WHO ARE YOU!

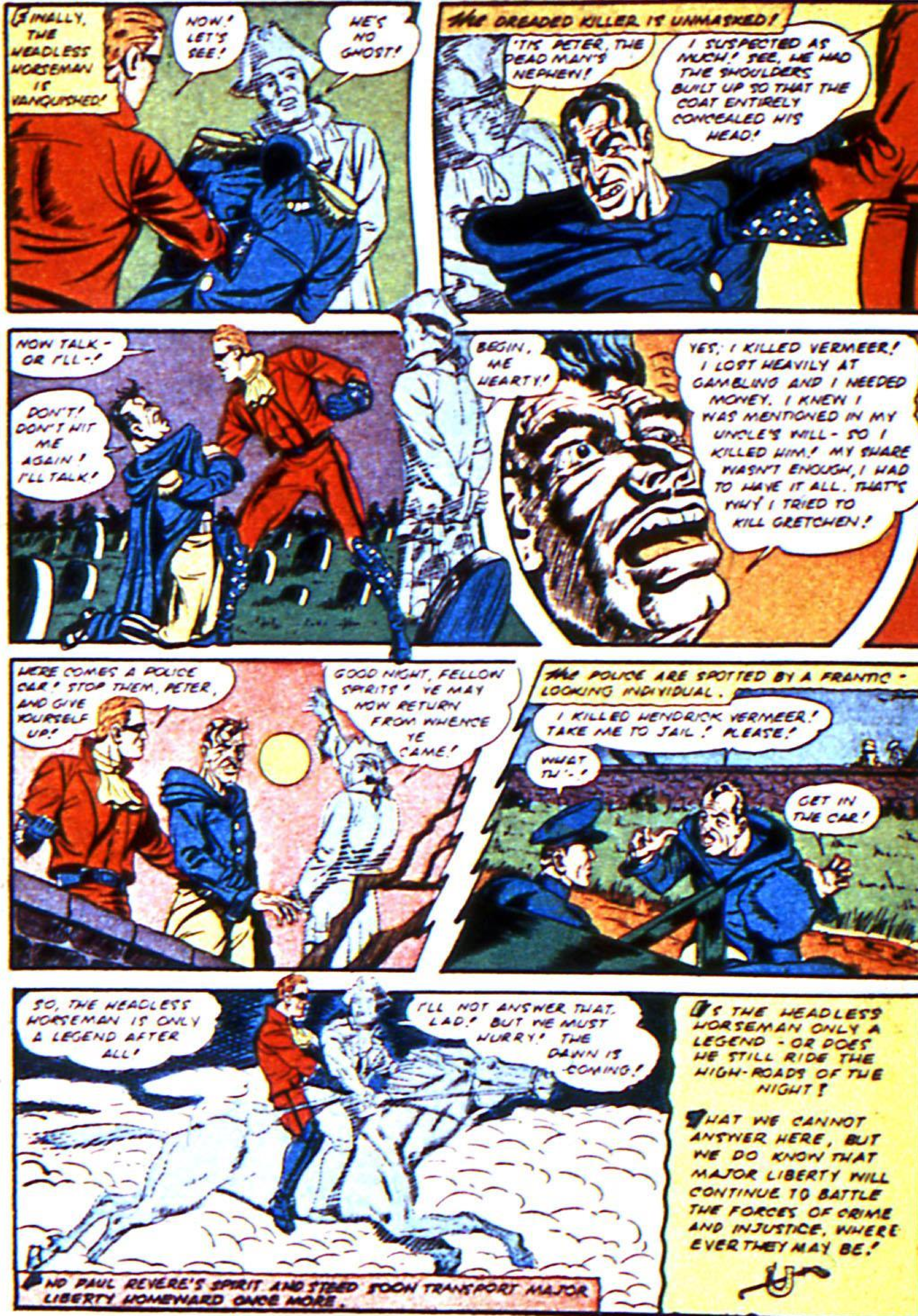

THE HEADLESS FIGURE ADVANCES TOWARDS THE OLD MAN...
WHAT DO YOU WANT! WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME! D..DON'T!
STRONG HANDS REACH OUT, GRASPING, CLUTCHING!
HELP! GRETCHEN HELP! AAAAAGH...
ATTRACTED BY VERMEER'S SCREAMS, GRETCHEN, THE MAID, BURSTS INTO THE ROOM.
WHAT'S THE MATTER!... OH!
JUST IN TIME TO SEE A RIDER VANISH INTO THE NIGHT!
IT'S- IT'S THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN!
IN NEW YORK, JOHN LIBERTY, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, IS SHOCKED BY THE EVENING HEADLINES.
HENDRICK VERMEER MURDERED! MY OLD COLLEGE DEAN! OH, IF I GET MY HANDS ON THAT KILLER, I'LL-!
SPIRITS OF AMERICA, SPIRITS OF 76 - ONCE AGAIN I NEED YOUR HELP!
JOHN LIBERTY LIFTS HIS EYES AND VOICE TO THE SKIES ABOVE!

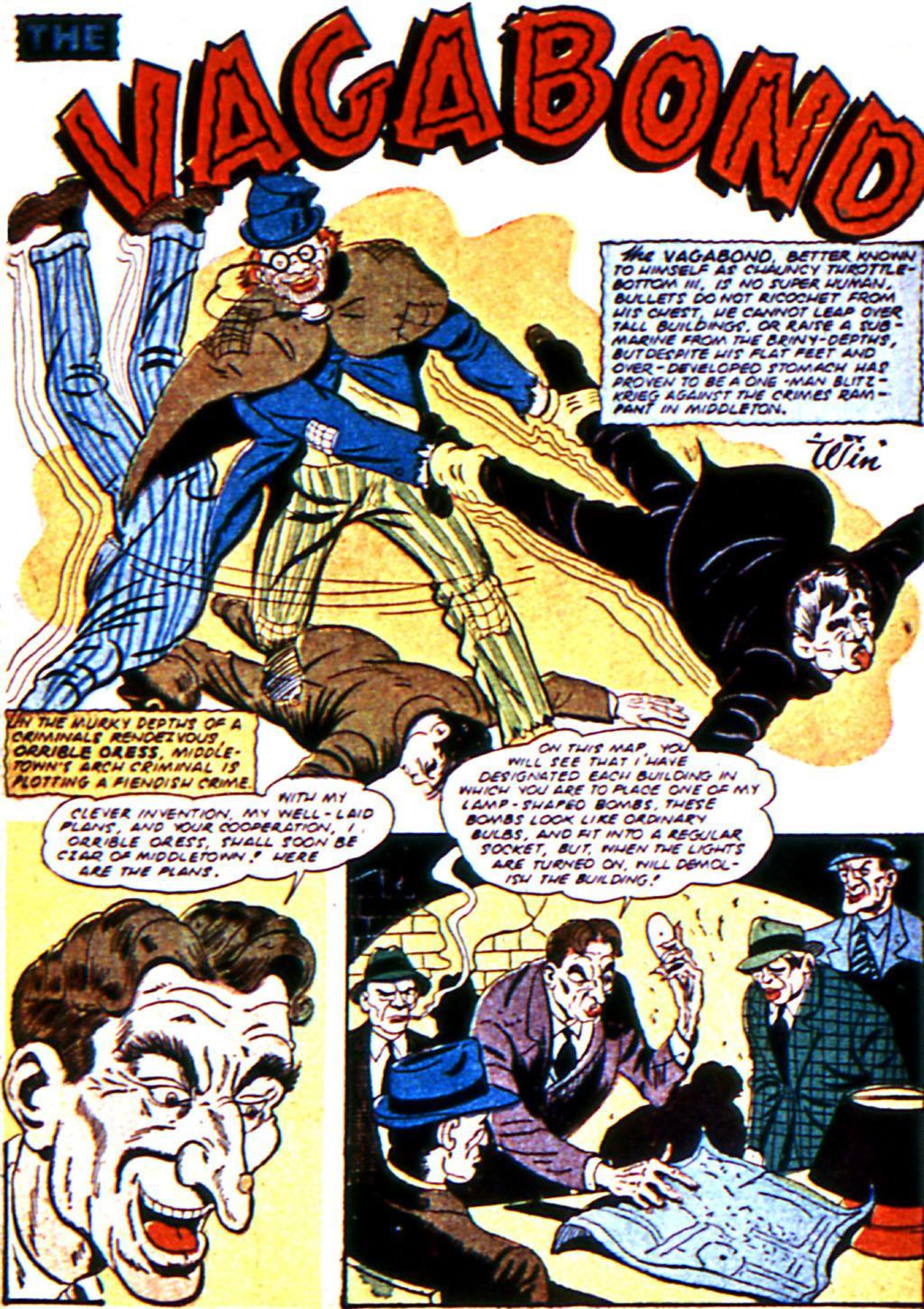

SLOWLY, SUDDENLY, GENTLY, A COLUMN OF DENSE BILLOWEY SMOKE DESCENDS INTO THE ROOM!
SPIRITS OF THE GLORIOUS PAST, COME TO MY AID!
IN A MOMENT, THE HISTORY PROFESSOR IS CLOAKED IN THE COSTUME OF MAJOR LIBERTY AS A VALIANT FIGURE STEPS FROM THE CLOUD OF SMOKE!
THE SPIRIT OF PAUL REVERE AT YOUR SERVICE!
HENDRICK VERMEER'S MURDER MUST BE AVENGED! TAKE ME TO SLEEPY HOLLOW!
OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.
MAKE HASTE, MAJOR LIBERTY! THE NIGHT IS SHORT AND I MUST VANISH WITH THE DAWN!
PAUL REVERE'S FAMOUS HORSE APPEARS IN ANSWER TO MAJOR LIBERTY'S REQUEST!
HIGH ABOVE THE GROUND, THE SPECTRAL HORSE GALLOPS TOWARD THEIR DESTINATION!
I THOUGHT THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN WAS ONLY A LEGEND!
YOU SHALL SEE! SOME CLAIM THAT I AM BUT A LEGEND!
IN A SHORT TIME, THE RIDERS ARE ABOVE THE VILLAGE OF SLEEPY HOLLOW!
WE ARE HERE!
THERE'S VERMEER'S HOUSE!
'TIS THE MAID AND PETER VERMEER'S NEPHEW!
BUT WHO IS THE OTHER MAN?
DESCENDING TO THE GROUND, THE TWO RIDERS DISMOUNT AND PEER INTO VERMEER'S WINDOW!

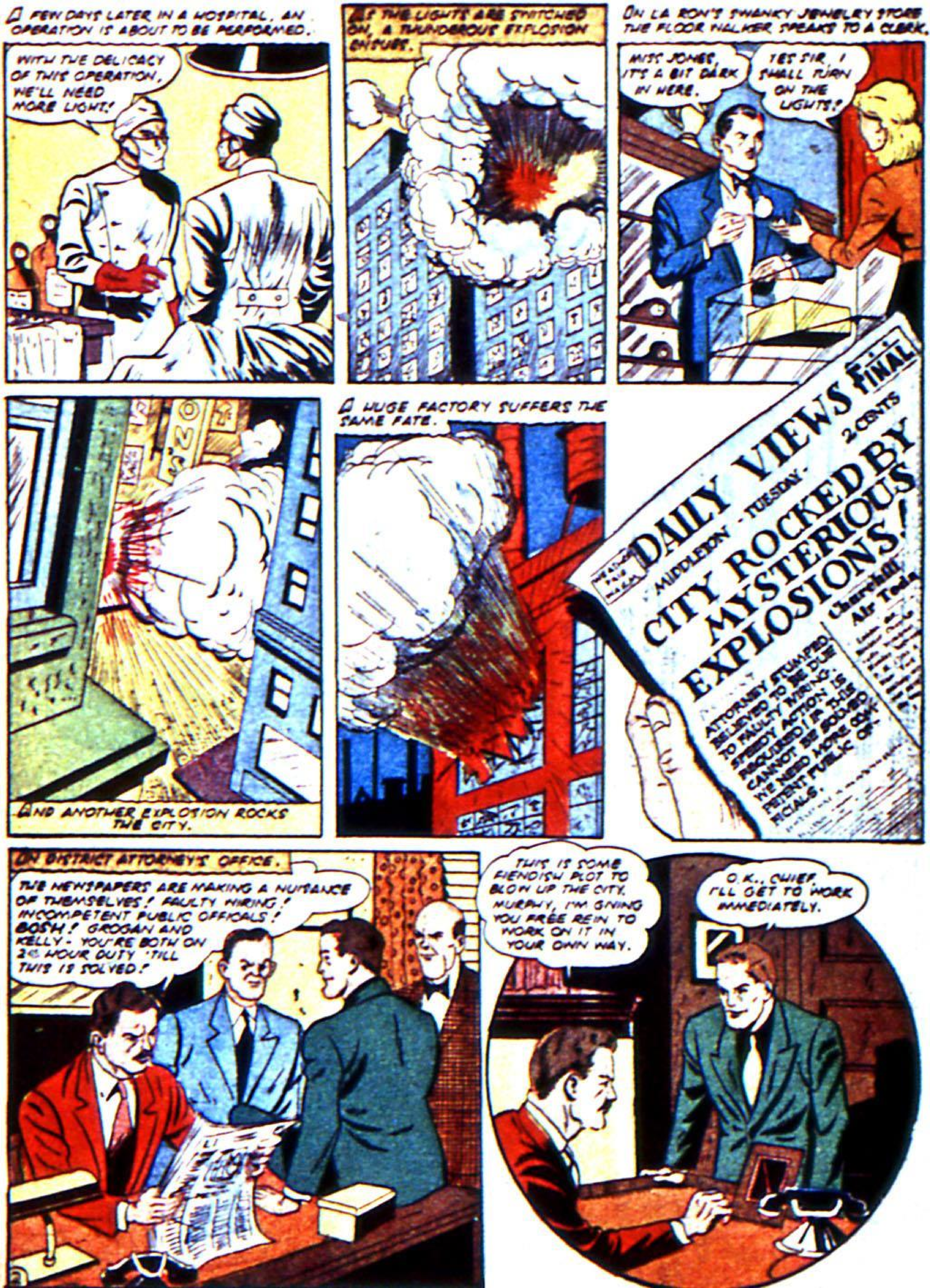

ACCORDING TO THIS WILL, MR. VERMEER'S ESTATE IS DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN YOU AND GRETCHEN!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SHE IS BUT A SERVANT AND I AM A BLOOD RELATION!
A TENSE SCENE IS BEING ENACTED INSIDE ---
VERMEER WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR GRETCHEN'S DEVOTED SERVICE. I'M AFRAID THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT, PETER!
OH, NO! YOU'LL SEE!
METHINKS THERE WILL BE TROUBLE TONIGHT!
WE HAD BETTER STICK AROUND - JUST IN CASE!
AT THE WINDOW, TWO VERY INTERESTED SPECTATORS REGARD THE SCENE ---
LATER, AFTER THE LAWYER HAS GONE, PETER LEAVES HIS UNCLE'S HOUSE.
HE LOOKS MIGHTY MAD!
LET'S FOLLOW HIM!
HE'S GOING INTO THE BARN!
THERE'S DEVILTRY AFOOT!
IN A FEW MINUTES THE BARN DOORS SWING OPEN, AND INTO THE NIGHT RIDES THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN!
THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN!
ODDS BODKINS!

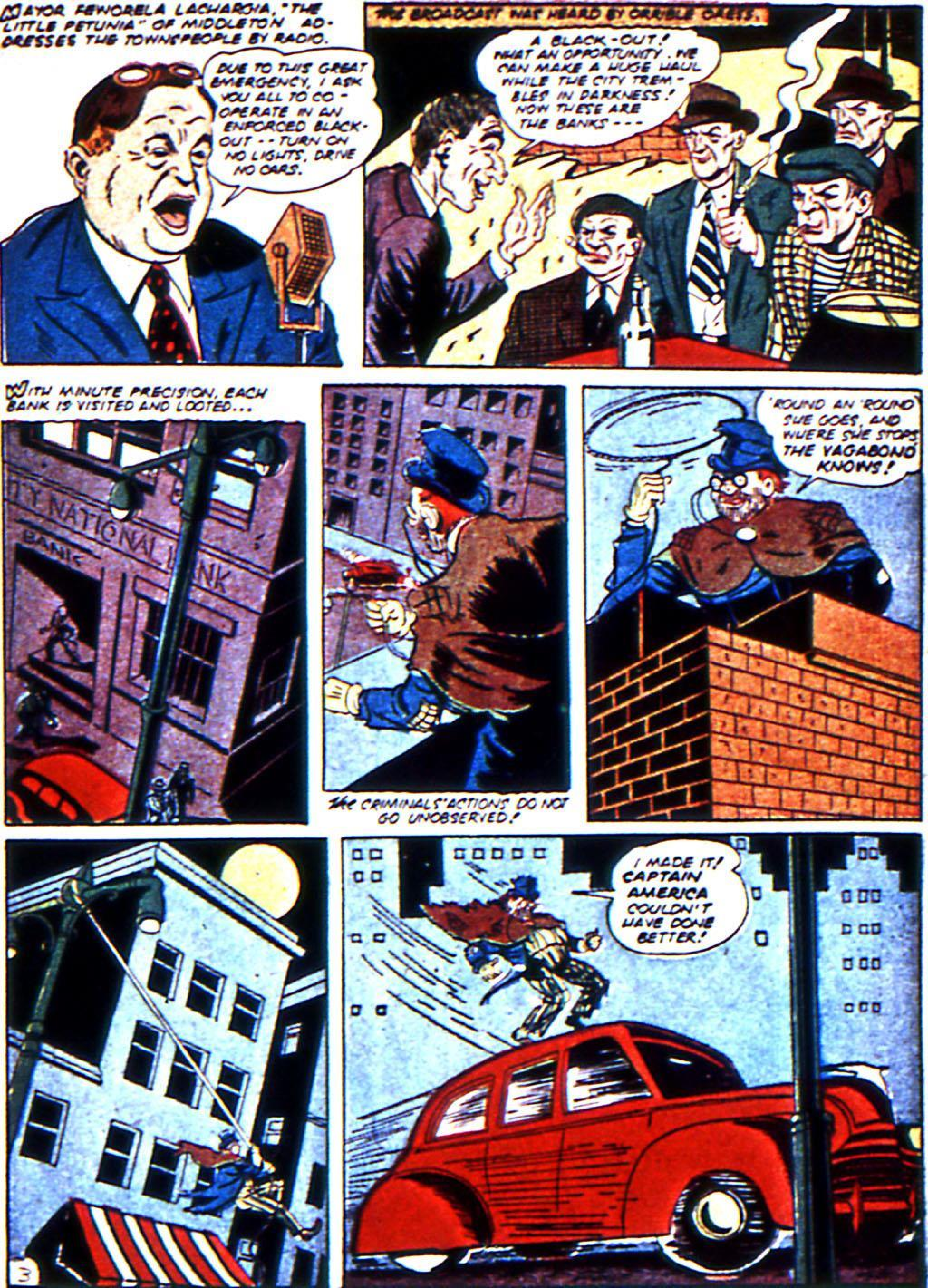

IN HER ROOM, GRETCHEN SLEEPS, UNAWARE OF THE STARTLING FIGURE WHICH IS SLOWLY STEALING IN THRU HER WINDOW.
-AND THEN, POWERFUL HANDS CLUTCH AT ANOTHER VICTIM!
HELP! HELP!
BUT JUST AS SILENTLY AS THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN, THE SPIRIT OF PAUL REVERE ARRIVES ON THE SCENE!
MUSTN'T DO THAT- YOURE HURTING THE LADY!
WHO SAID THAT!
A NEW FIGHTING FIGURE APPEARS! MAJOR LIBERTY STEPS IN.
HELLO, HEADLESS! HOW ABOUT A SHOWDOWN!
THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN CHARGES LIKE A MAD BULL FOR THE WINDOW!
ARE YE HURT, LAD?
OUT OF MY WAY, FOOL!
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
HE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ME!
THE CLATTER OF HORSES' HOOFS ECHOES ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE AS THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN RIDES AGAIN!
AFTER HIM, PAUL!
WITH ONE NIMBLE LEAP, THE MURDEROUS FIGURE MOUNTS HIS WAITING HORSE...
-WITH MAJOR LIBERTY AND THE SPIRIT OF PAUL REVERE IN CLOSE PERSUIT!

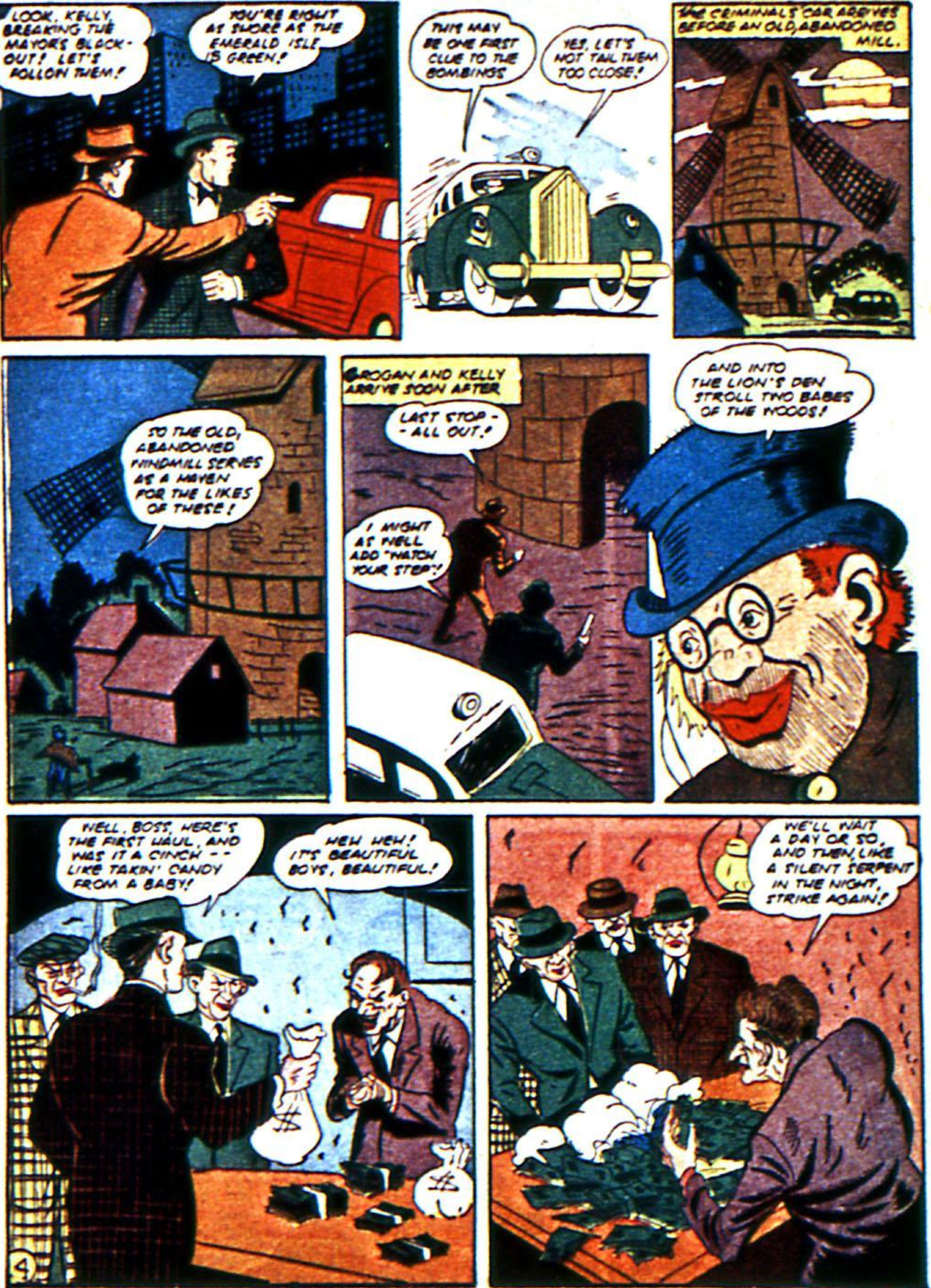

MADLY, DESPERATELY, THE HORSEMAN GALLOPS ACROSS A BRIDGE AND PASSES AN OLD, DUTCH CHURCH
HE'S HEADED FOR THE CHURCH YARD!
THE CHASE LEADS TO THE NEARBY GRAVE-YARD, SHELTERER OF LONG-DEAD SOULS!
FELLOW SPIRITS, ARISE!
STOP!
THE HORSEMAN'S STEED SHIES IN TERROR AS THE ANCIENT SPIRITS OF THE PAST ARISE TO BAR THE WAY!
MAJOR LIBERTY DIVES WITH THE SPEED OF A METEOR!
BUT A SAVAGE KICK SENDS THE CRIME-FIGHTER FLYING BACKWARD!
TAKE THAT, YE PESKY DEVIL!
OOOW!
PAUL REVERE LOSES HIS TEMPER AND COUNTERS WITH A SWIFT KICK!
IF YOU ONLY HAD A JAW!
GOOD FOR YOU, LAD!
AND THEN MAJOR LIBERTY PROCEEDS TO "MOP UP"!

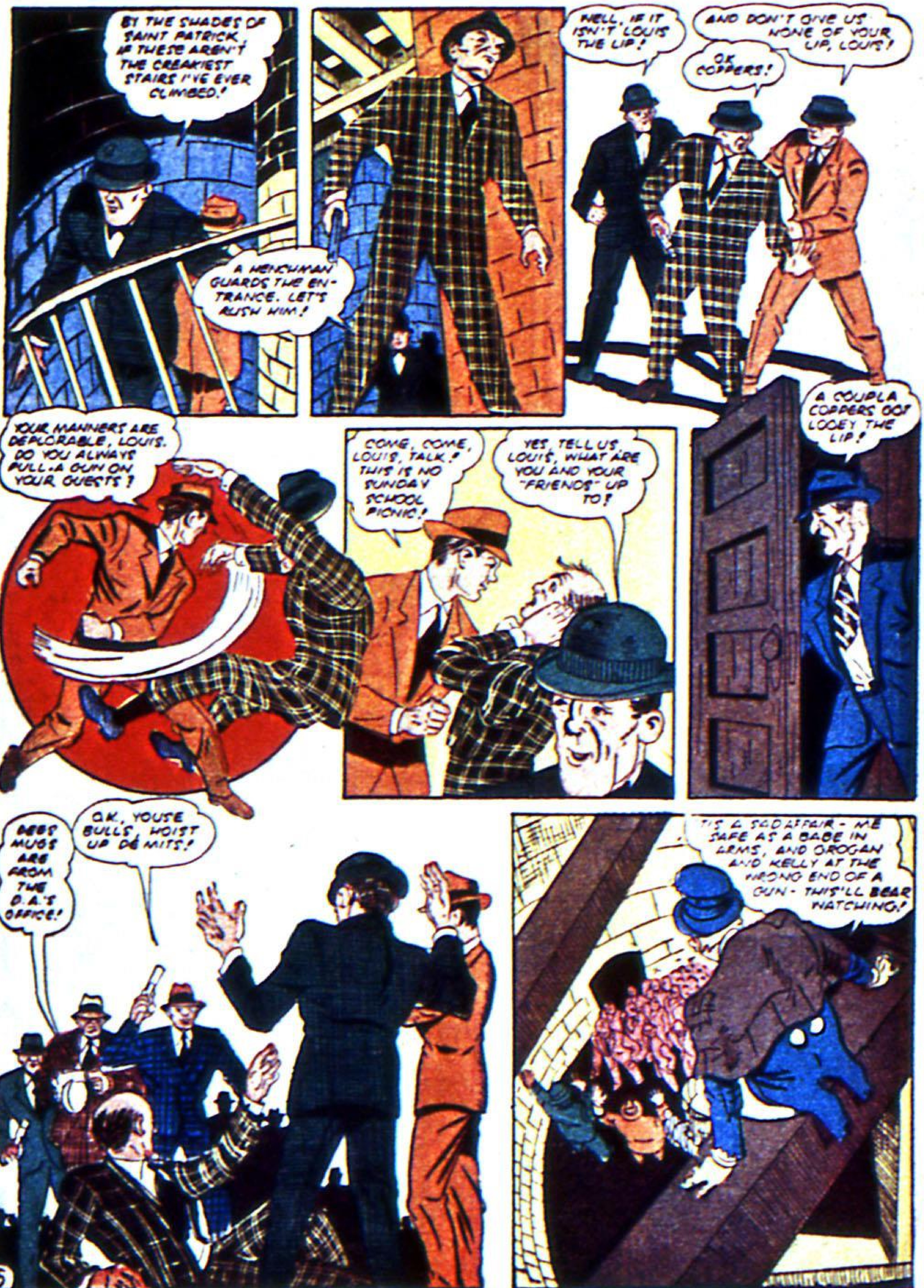

FINALLY, THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN IS VANQUISHED!
NOW! LET'S SEE!
HE'S NO GHOST!
THE DREADED KILLER IS UNMASKED!
'TIS PETER, THE DEAD MAN'S NEPHEW!
I SUSPECTED AS MUCH! SEE, HE HAD THE SHOULDERS BUILT UP SO THAT THE COAT ENTIRELY CONCEALED HIS HEAD!
NOW TALK - OR I'LL -!
DON'T! DON'T HIT ME AGAIN! I'LL TALK!
BEGIN, ME HEARTY!
YES; I KILLED VERMEER! I LOST HEAVILY AT GAMBLING AND I NEEDED MONEY. I KNEW I WAS MENTIONED IN MY UNCLE'S WILL - SO I KILLED HIM! MY SHARE WASN'T ENOUGH, I HAD TO HAVE IT ALL. THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO KILL GRETCHEN!
HERE COMES A POLICE CAR! STOP THEM, PETER, AND GIVE YOURSELF UP!
GOOD NIGHT, FELLOW SPIRITS! YE MAY NOW RETURN FROM WHENCE YE CAME!
THE POLICE ARE SPOTTED BY A FRANTIC-LOOKING INDIVIDUAL.
I KILLED HENDRICK VERMEER! TAKE ME TO JAIL! PLEASE!
WHAT TH'-!
GET IN THE CAR!
SO, THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN IS ONLY A LEGEND AFTER ALL!
I'LL NOT ANSWER THAT, LAD! BUT WE MUST HURRY! THE DAWN IS COMING!
IS THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN ONLY A LEGEND - OR DOES HE STILL RIDE THE HIGH-ROADS OF THE NIGHT?
THAT WE CANNOT ANSWER HERE, BUT WE DO KNOW THAT MAJOR LIBERTY WILL CONTINUE TO BATTLE THE FORCES OF CRIME AND INJUSTICE, WHERE EVER THEY MAY BE!
AND PAUL REVERE'S SPIRIT AND STEED SOON TRANSPORT MAJOR LIBERTY HOMEWARD ONCE MORE.

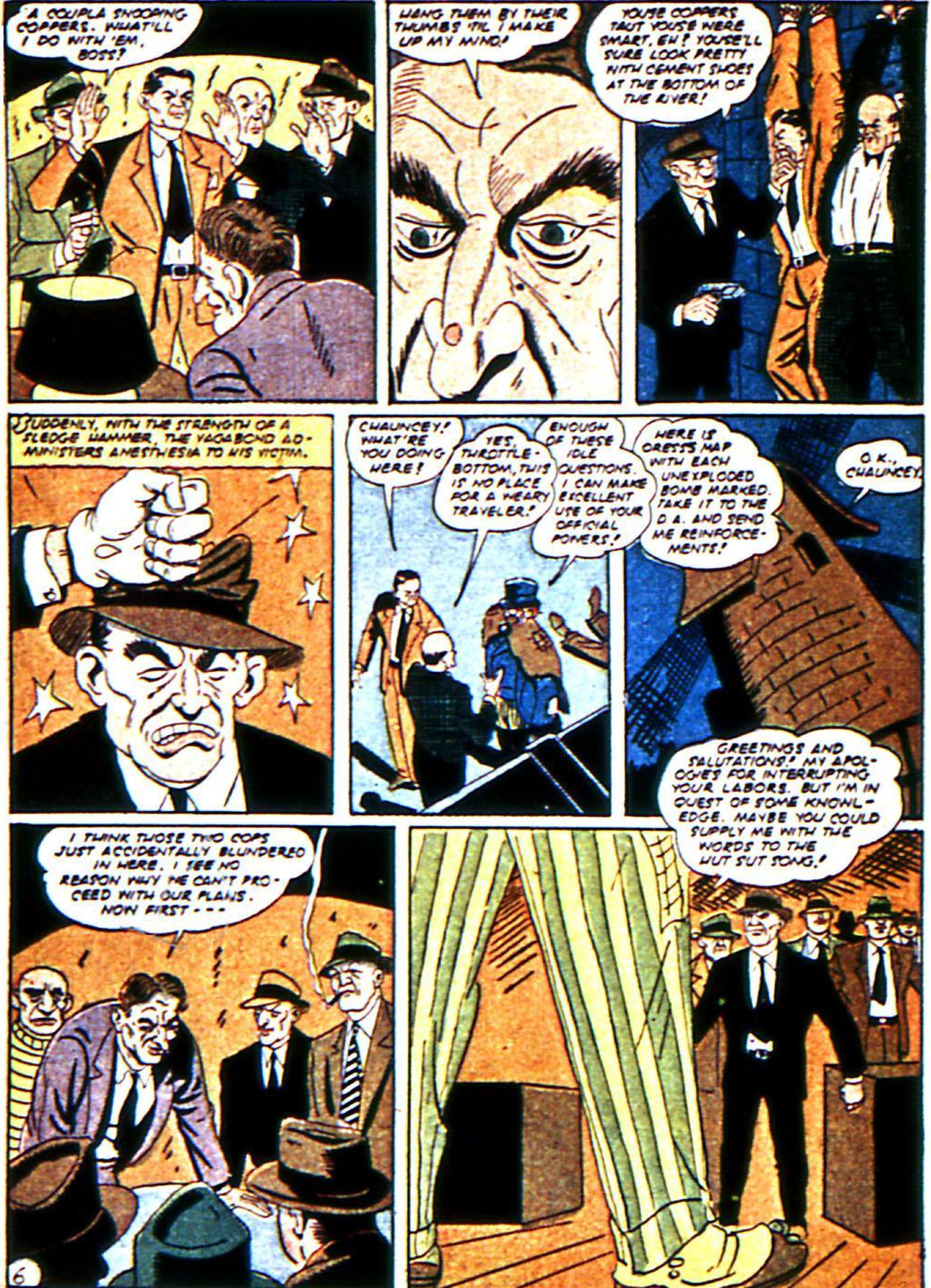

THE VAGABOND
The VAGABOND, BETTER KNOWN TO HIMSELF AS CHAUNCY THROTTLEBOTTOM III, IS NO SUPER HUMAN. BULLETS DO NOT RICOCHET FROM HIS CHEST, HE CANNOT LEAP OVER TALL BUILDINGS, OR RAISE A SUBMARINE FROM THE BRINY-DEPTHS, BUT DESPITE HIS FLAT FEET AND OVER-DEVELOPED STOMACH HAS PROVEN TO BE A ONE-MAN BLITZKRIEG AGAINST THE CRIMES RAMPANT IN MIDDLETON.
BY Win
IN THE MURKY DEPTHS OF A CRIMINALS RENDEZVOUS, ORRIBLE ORESS, MIDDLETOWN'S ARCH CRIMINAL IS PLOTTING A FIENDISH CRIME.
WITH MY CLEVER INVENTION, MY WELL-LAID PLANS, AND YOUR COOPERATION, I, ORRIBLE ORESS, SHALL SOON BE CZAR OF MIDDLETOWN! HERE ARE THE PLANS.
ON THIS MAP, YOU WILL SEE THAT I HAVE DESIGNATED EACH BUILDING IN WHICH YOU ARE TO PLACE ONE OF MY LAMP-SHAPED BOMBS, THESE BOMBS LOOK LIKE ORDINARY BULBS, AND FIT INTO A REGULAR SOCKET, BUT, WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON, WILL DEMOLISH THE BUILDING!

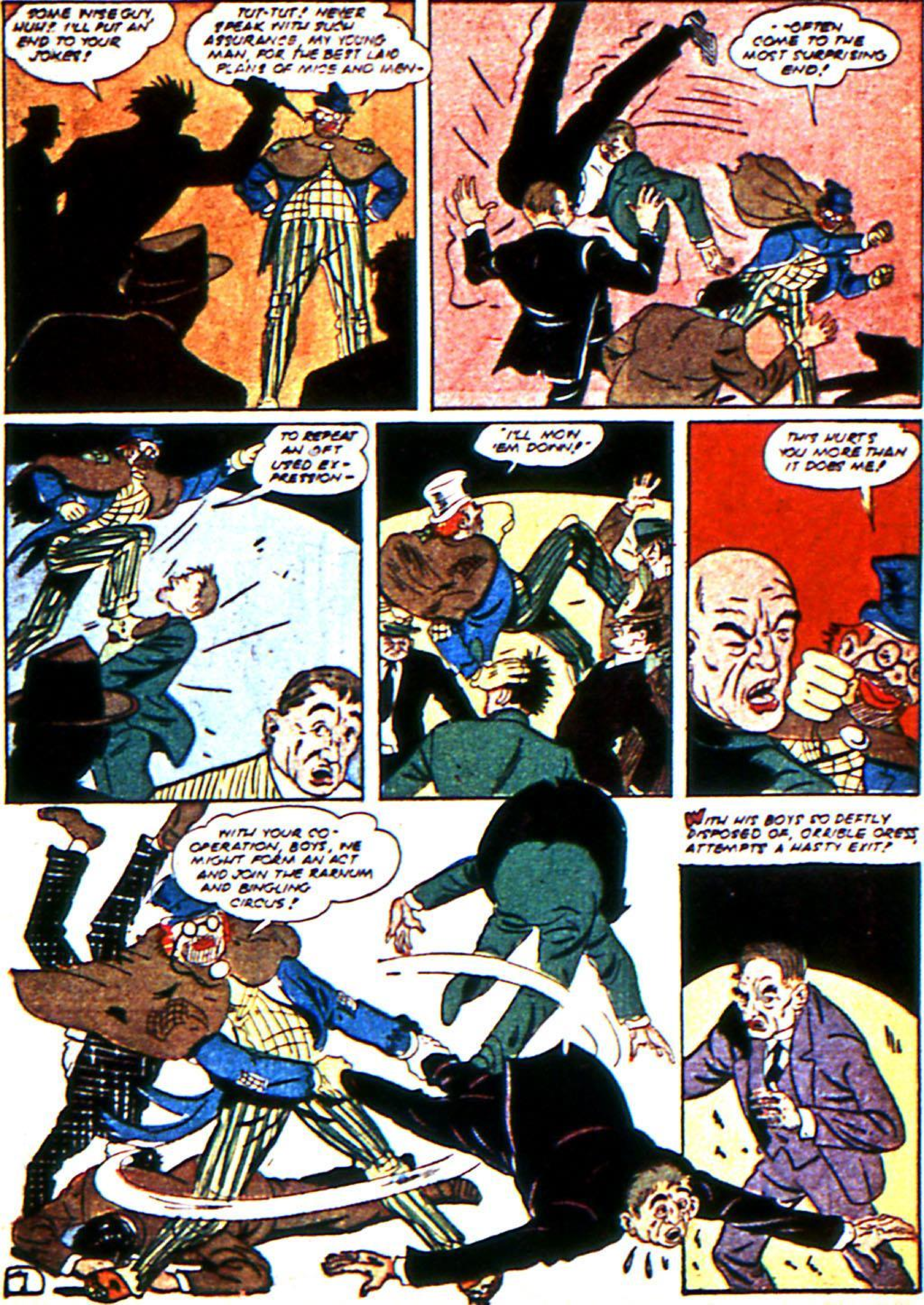

A FEW DAYS LATER IN A HOSPITAL, AN OPERATION IS ABOUT TO BE PERFORMED.
WITH THE DELICACY OF THIS OPERATION, WE'LL NEED MORE LIGHT!
AS THE LIGHTS ARE SWITCHED ON, A THUNDEROUS EXPLOSION ENSUES.
ON LA RON'S SWANKY JEWELRY STORE THE FLOOR WALKER SPEAKS TO A CLERK.
MISS JONES, IT'S A BIT DARK IN HERE.
YES SIR, I SHALL TURN ON THE LIGHTS!
AND ANOTHER EXPLOSION ROCKS THE CITY.
A HUGE FACTORY SUFFERS THE SAME FATE.
DAILY VIEWS
FINAL
MIDDLETON · TUESDAY · 2 CENTS
CITY ROCKED BY MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSIONS!
ATTORNEY STUMPED BELIEVED TO BE DUE TO FAULTY WIRING. SPEEDY ACTION IS REQUIRED! IF THIS CANNOT BE SOLVED WE NEED MORE COMPETENT PUBLIC OFFICIALS.
Churchill Air Tod
IN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.
THE NEWSPAPERS ARE MAKING A NUISANCE OF THEMSELVES! FAULTY WIRING! INCOMPETENT PUBLIC OFFICIALS! BOSH! GROGAN AND KELLY - YOU'RE BOTH ON 24 HOUR DUTY 'TILL THIS IS SOLVED!
THIS IS SOME FIENDISH PLOT TO BLOW UP THE CITY. MURPHY, I'M GIVING YOU FREE REIN TO WORK ON IT IN YOUR OWN WAY.
O.K., CHIEF. I'LL GET TO WORK IMMEDIATELY.

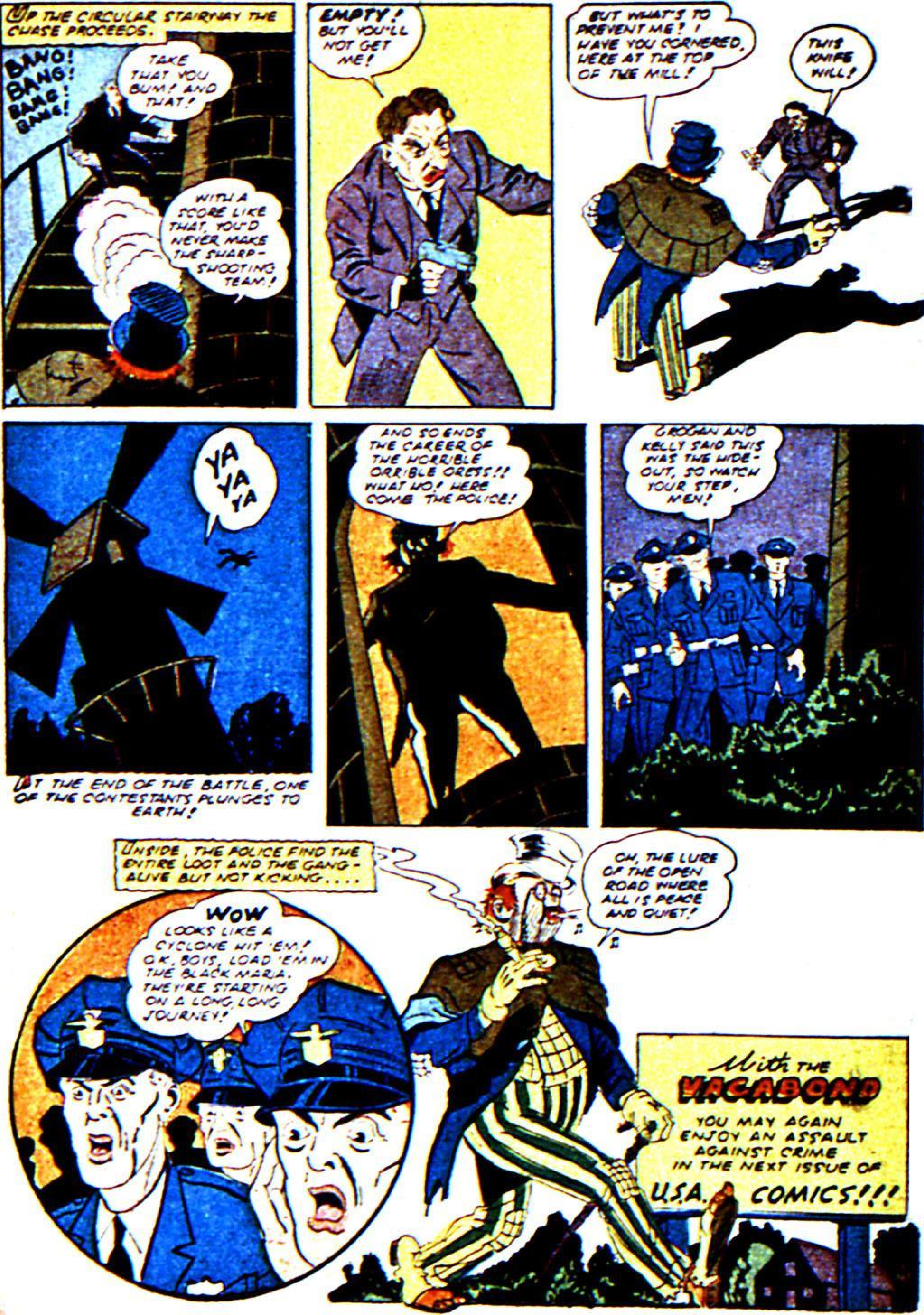

MAYOR FEWORELA LACHARCIA, "THE LITTLE PETUNIA" OF MIDDLETON ADDRESSES THE TOWNSPEOPLE BY RADIO.
DUE TO THIS GREAT EMERGENCY, I ASK YOU ALL TO CO-OPERATE IN AN ENFORCED BLACK-OUT -- TURN ON NO LIGHTS, DRIVE NO CARS.
THE BROADCAST WAS HEARD BY ORRIBLE OATES.
A BLACK-OUT! WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY. WE CAN MAKE A HUGE HAUL WHILE THE CITY TREMBLES IN DARKNESS! NOW THESE ARE THE BANKS ---
WITH MINUTE PRECISION, EACH BANK IS VISITED AND LOOTED...
TY NATIONAL BANK
BANK
THE CRIMINALS' ACTIONS DO NOT GO UNOBSERVED!
'ROUND AN' 'ROUND SHE GOES, AND WHERE SHE STOPS THE VAGABOND KNOWS!
I MADE IT! CAPTAIN AMERICA COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER!
3

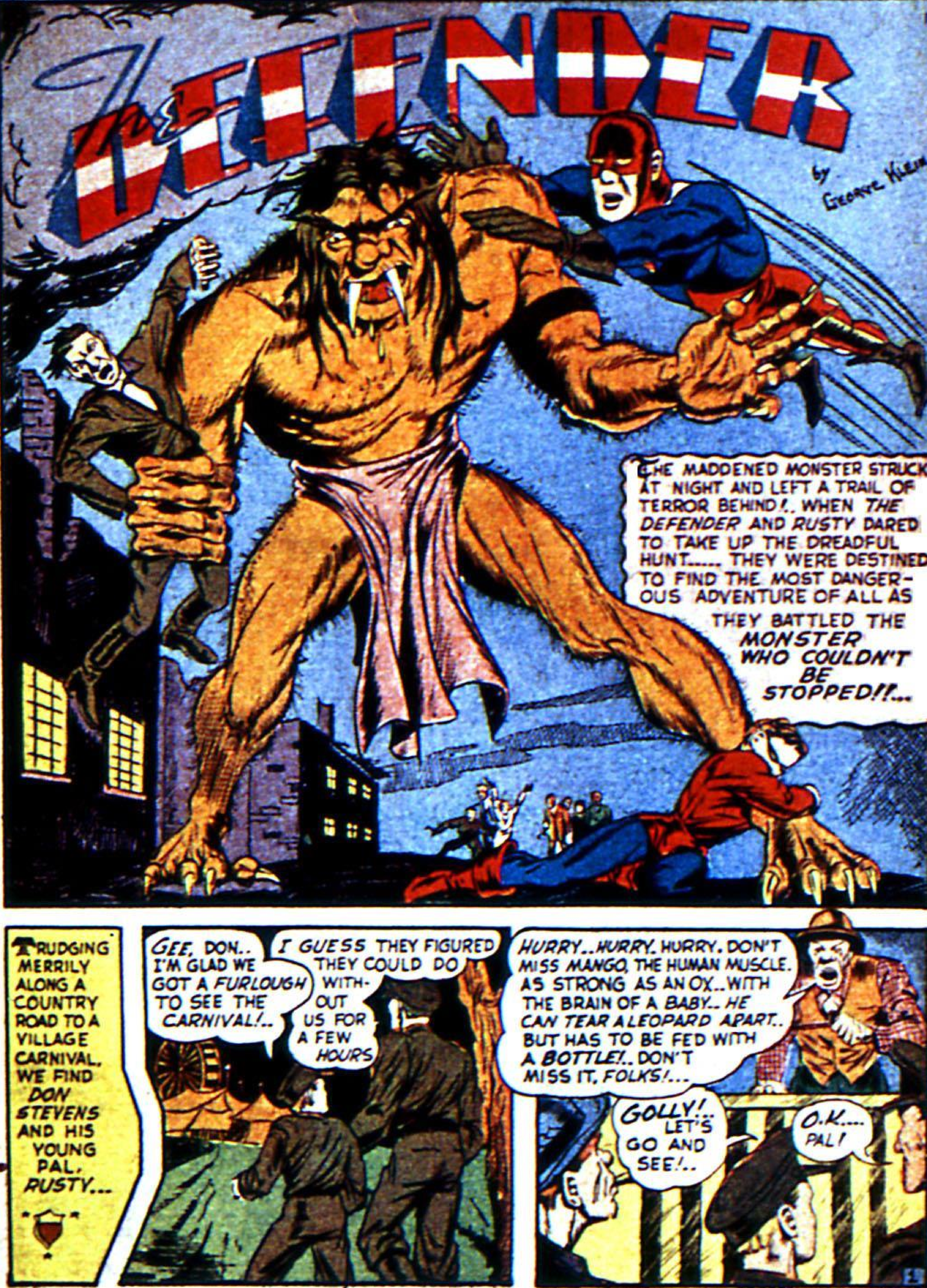

LOOK, KELLY, BREAKING THE MAYOR'S BLACK-OUT! LET'S FOLLOW THEM!
YOU'RE RIGHT AS SHORE AS THE EMERALD ISLE IS GREEN!
THIS MAY BE ONE FIRST CLUE TO THE BOMBINGS
YES, LET'S NOT TAIL THEM TOO CLOSE!
THE CRIMINALS' CAR ARRIVES BEFORE AN OLD, ABANDONED MILL.
SO THE OLD, ABANDONED WINDMILL SERVES AS A HAVEN FOR THE LIKES OF THESE!
GROGAN AND KELLY ARRIVE SOON AFTER
LAST STOP - - ALL OUT.!
I MIGHT AS WELL ADD "WATCH YOUR STEP"!
AND INTO THE LION'S DEN STROLL TWO BABES OF THE WOODS!
WELL, BOSS, HERE'S THE FIRST HAUL, AND WAS IT A CINCH - - LIKE TAKIN' CANDY FROM A BABY!
HEH HEH! IT'S BEAUTIFUL BOYS, BEAUTIFUL!
WE'LL WAIT A DAY OR SO, AND THEN, LIKE A SILENT SERPENT IN THE NIGHT, STRIKE AGAIN!

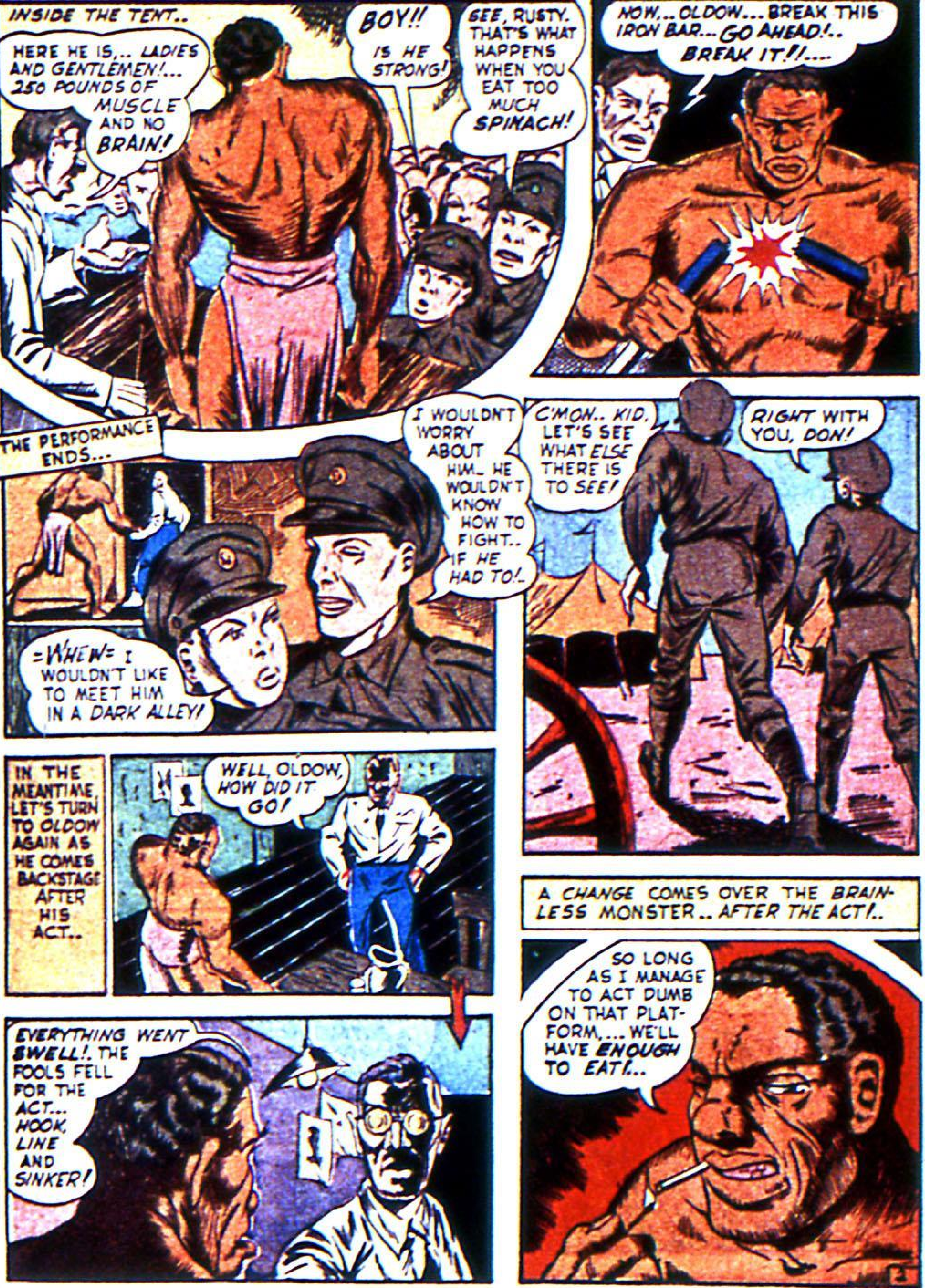

BY THE SHADES OF SAINT PATRICK, IF THESE AREN'T THE CREAKIEST STAIRS I'VE EVER CLIMBED!
A HENCHMAN GUARDS THE ENTRANCE. LET'S RUSH HIM!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T LOUIS THE LIP!
AND DON'T GIVE US NONE OF YOUR LIP, LOUIS!
O.K. COPPERS!
YOUR MANNERS ARE DEPLORABLE, LOUIS. DO YOU ALWAYS PULL A GUN ON YOUR GUESTS?
COME, COME, LOUIS, TALK! THIS IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC!
YES, TELL US, LOUIS, WHAT ARE YOU AND YOUR "FRIENDS" UP TO?
A COUPLA COPPERS GOT LOOEY THE LIP!
DESE MUGS ARE FROM THE D.A.'S OFFICE!
O.K., YOUSE BULLS, HOIST UP DE MITS!
'TIS A SAD AFFAIR - ME SAFE AS A BABE IN ARMS, AND GROGAN AND KELLY AT THE WRONG END OF A GUN - THIS'LL BEAR WATCHING!

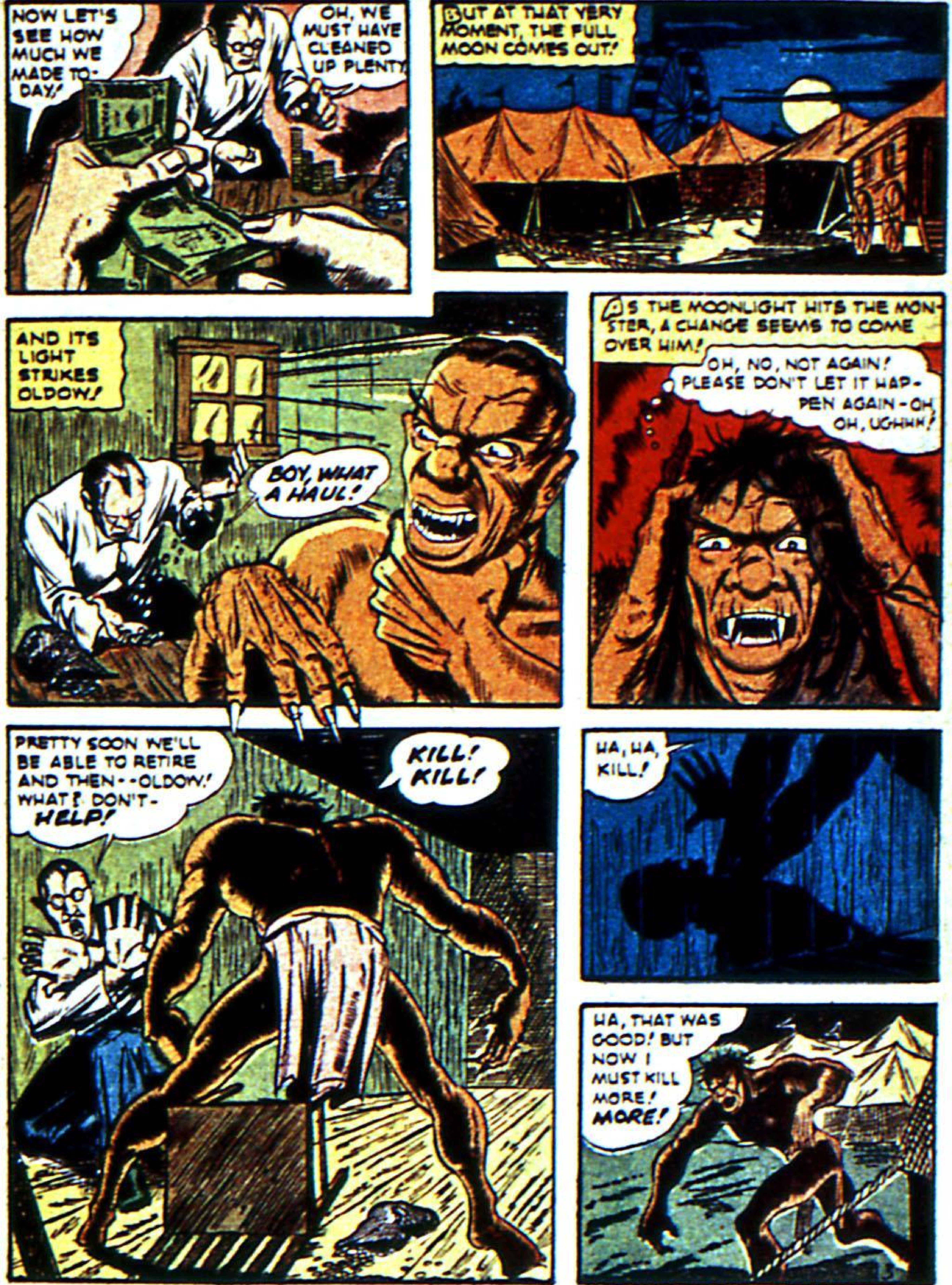

A COUPLA SNOOPING COPPERS. WHAT'LL I DO WITH 'EM, BOSS?
HANG THEM BY THEIR THUMBS 'TIL I MAKE UP MY MIND!
YOUSE COPPERS TAUT YOUSE WERE SMART, EH! YOUSE'LL SURE LOOK PRETTY WITH CEMENT SHOES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER!
SUDDENLY, WITH THE STRENGTH OF A SLEDGE HAMMER, THE VAGABOND ADMINISTERS ANESTHESIA TO HIS VICTIM.
CHAUNCEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!
YES, THROTTLEBOTTOM, THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A WEARY TRAVELER!
ENOUGH OF THESE IDLE QUESTIONS. I CAN MAKE EXCELLENT USE OF YOUR OFFICIAL POWERS!
HERE IS ORESS'S MAP WITH EACH UNEXPLODED BOMB MARKED. TAKE IT TO THE D.A. AND SEND ME REINFORCEMENTS!
O.K., CHAUNCEY!
I THINK THOSE TWO COPS JUST ACCIDENTALLY BLUNDERED IN HERE. I SEE NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T PROCEED WITH OUR PLANS. NOW FIRST---
GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS! MY APOLOGIES FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR LABORS. BUT I'M IN QUEST OF SOME KNOWLEDGE. MAYBE YOU COULD SUPPLY ME WITH THE WORDS TO THE HUT SUT SONG!

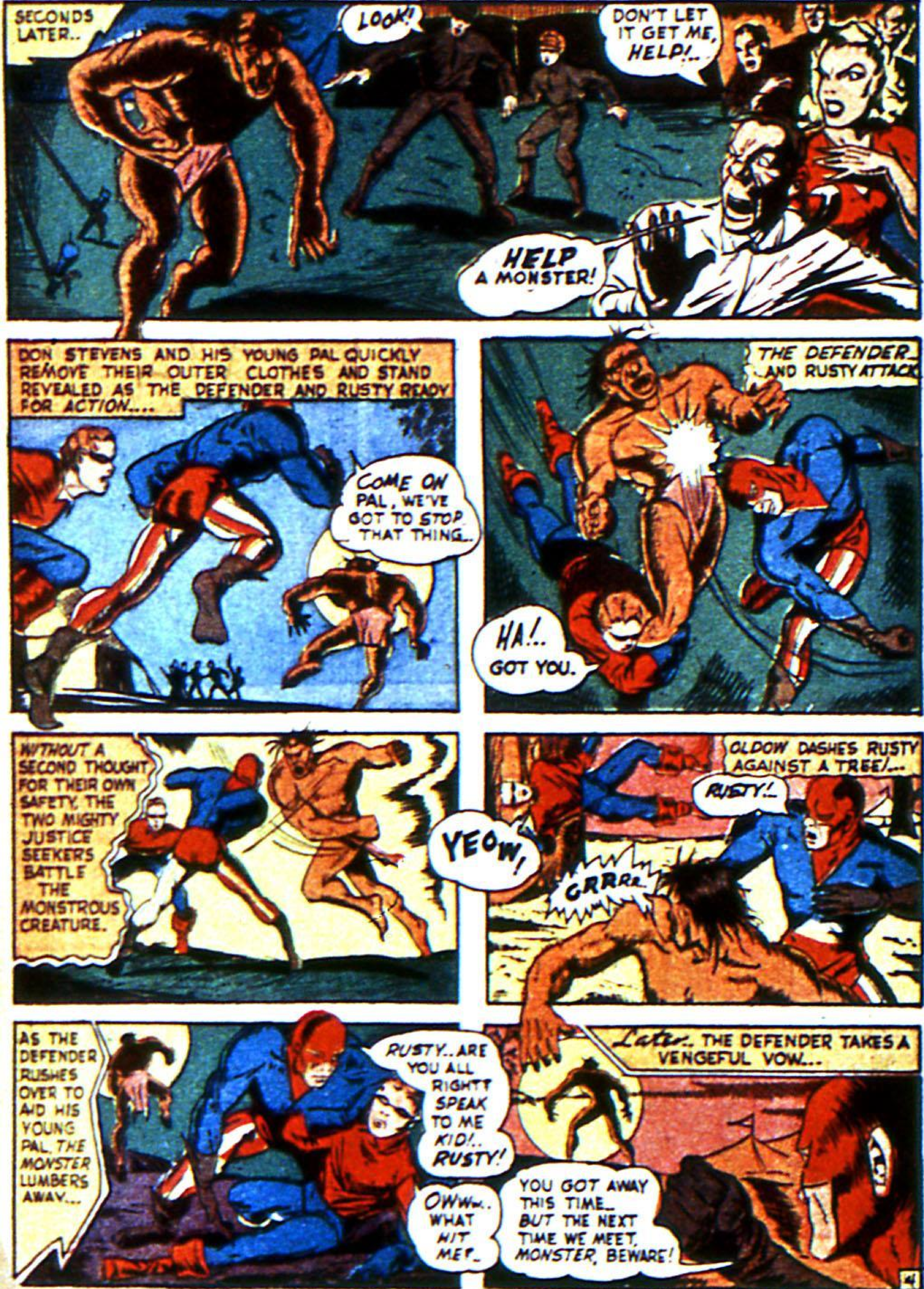

SOME WISE GUY, HUH? I'LL PUT AN' END TO YOUR JOKES!
TUT-TUT! NEVER SPEAK WITH SUCH ASSURANCE, MY YOUNG MAN, FOR THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN-
--OFTEN COME TO THE MOST SURPRISING END!
TO REPEAT AN OFT USED EXPRESSION-
"I'LL MOW 'EM DOWN!"
THIS HURTS YOU MORE THAN IT DOES ME!
WITH YOUR CO-OPERATION, BOYS, WE MIGHT FORM AN ACT AND JOIN THE RARNUM AND BINGLING CIRCUS!
WITH HIS BOYS SO DEFTLY DISPOSED OF, ORRIBLE ORESS ATTEMPTS A HASTY EXIT!

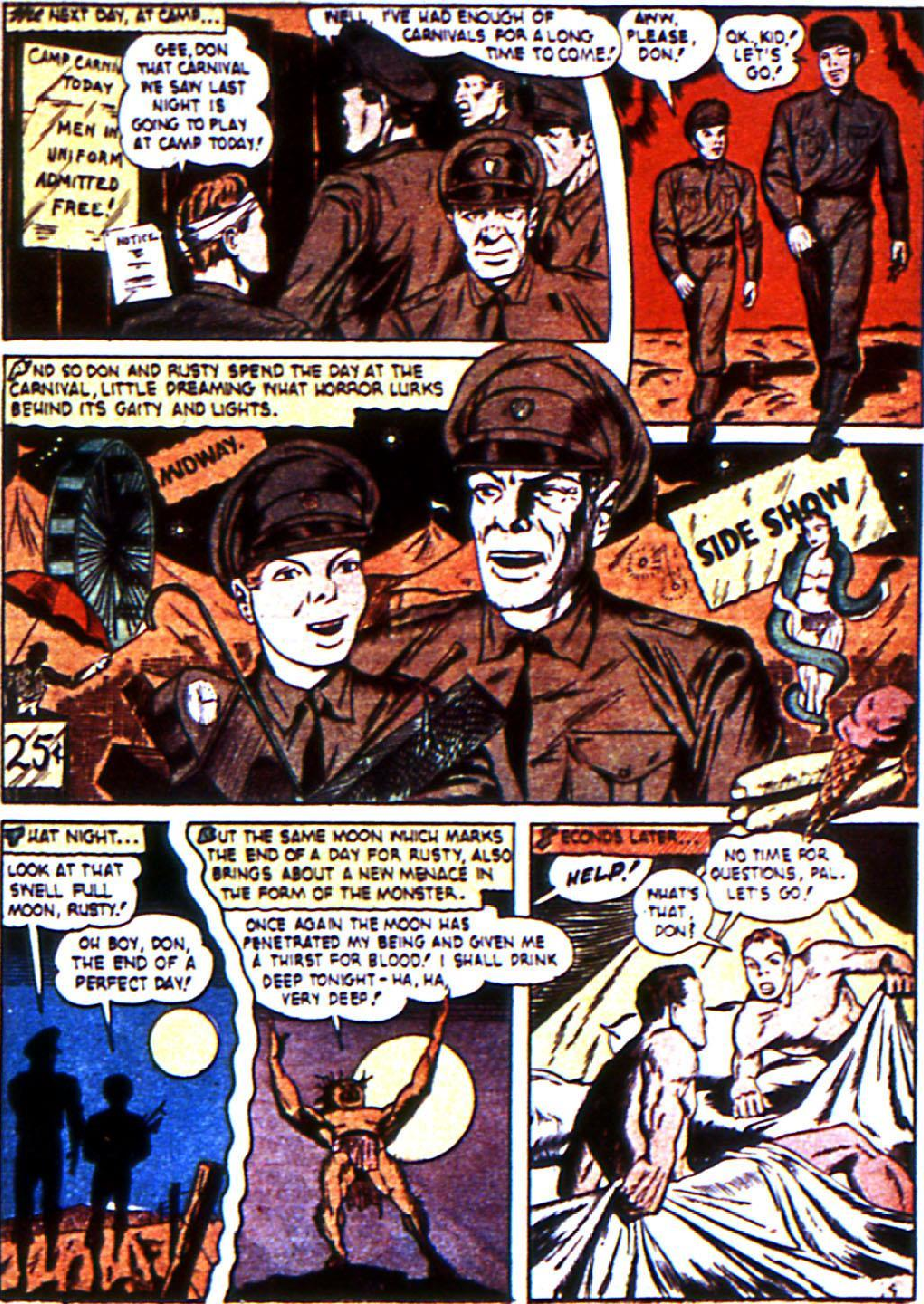

UP THE CIRCULAR STAIRWAY THE CHASE PROCEEDS.
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!
TAKE THAT YOU BUM! AND THAT!
WITH A SCORE LIKE THAT, YOU'D NEVER MAKE THE SHARP-SHOOTING TEAM!
EMPTY! BUT YOU'LL NOT GET ME!
BUT WHAT'S TO PREVENT ME? I HAVE YOU CORNERED, HERE AT THE TOP OF THE MILL!
THIS KNIFE WILL!
YA YA YA YA
AT THE END OF THE BATTLE, ONE OF THE CONTESTANTS PLUNGES TO EARTH!
AND SO ENDS THE CAREER OF THE HORRIBLE ORRIBLE ORESS!! WHAT HO! HERE COME THE POLICE!
GROGAN AND KELLY SAID THIS WAS THE HIDE-OUT, SO WATCH YOUR STEP, MEN!
INSIDE, THE POLICE FIND THE ENTIRE LOOT AND THE GANG-ALIVE BUT NOT KICKING....
WOW LOOKS LIKE A CYCLONE HIT 'EM! O.K. BOYS, LOAD 'EM IN THE BLACK MARIA. THEY'RE STARTING ON A LONG, LONG JOURNEY!
OH, THE LURE OF THE OPEN ROAD WHERE ALL IS PEACE AND QUIET!
With THE VAGABOND YOU MAY AGAIN ENJOY AN ASSAULT AGAINST CRIME IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF U.S.A. COMICS!!!

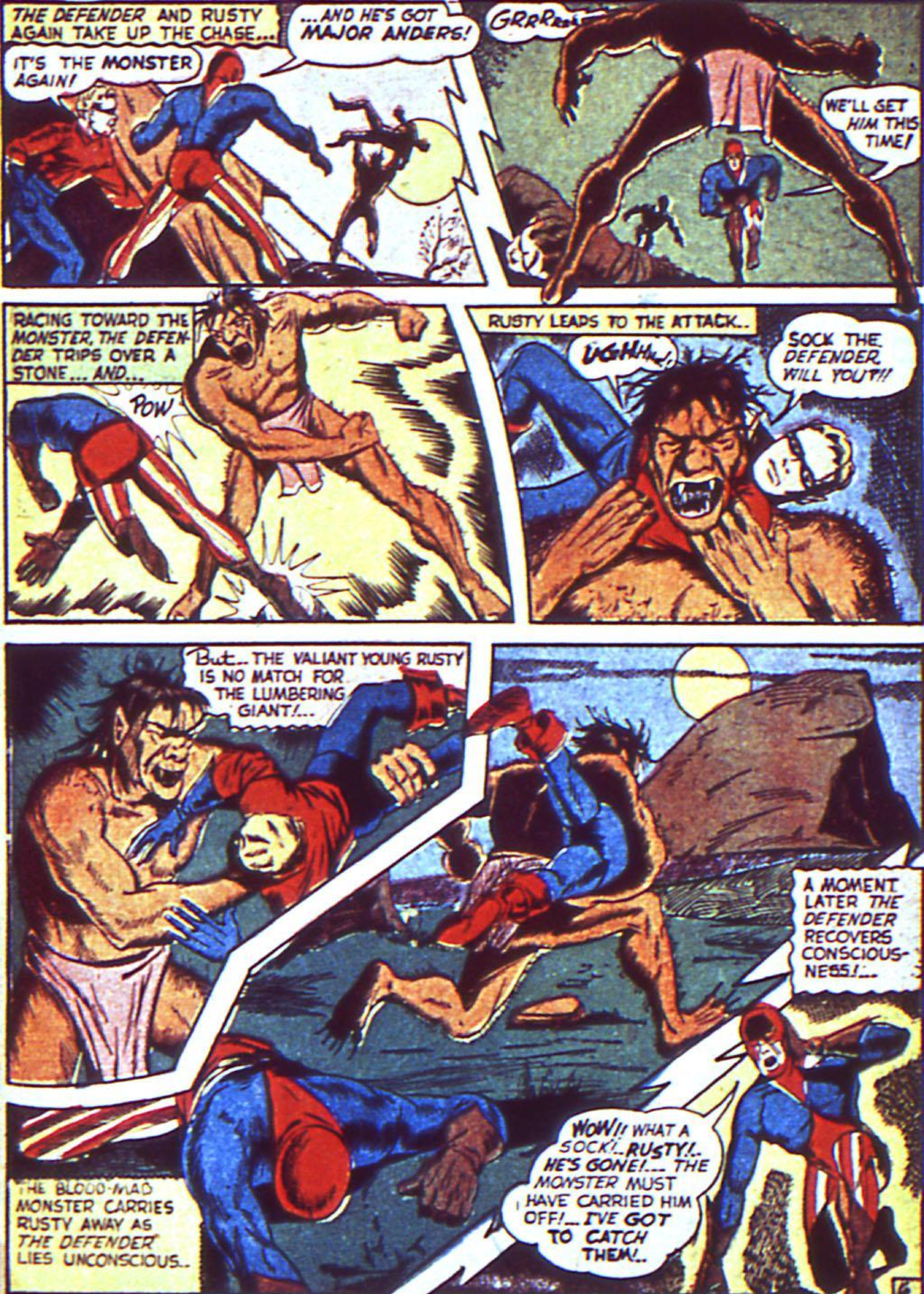

The DEFENDER
by George Klein
THE MADDENED MONSTER STRUCK AT NIGHT AND LEFT A TRAIL OF TERROR BEHIND!.. WHEN *THE DEFENDER* AND *RUSTY* DARED TO TAKE UP THE DREADFUL HUNT...... THEY WERE DESTINED TO FIND THE MOST DANGEROUS ADVENTURE OF ALL AS THEY BATTLED THE *MONSTER WHO COULDN'T BE STOPPED!!...*
TRUDGING MERRILY ALONG A COUNTRY ROAD TO A VILLAGE CARNIVAL, WE FIND *DON STEVENS* AND HIS YOUNG PAL, *RUSTY...*
GEE, DON.. I'M GLAD WE GOT A *FURLOUGH* TO SEE THE *CARNIVAL!..*
I GUESS THEY FIGURED THEY COULD DO WITHOUT US FOR A FEW *HOURS*
HURRY..HURRY.. HURRY. DON'T MISS *MANGO,* THE HUMAN MUSCLE. AS STRONG AS AN OX.. WITH THE BRAIN OF A *BABY.. HE CAN TEAR A LEOPARD APART..* BUT HAS TO BE FED WITH A *BOTTLE!..* DON'T MISS IT, *FOLKS!...*
GOLLY! LET'S GO AND SEE!..
O.K.... PAL!

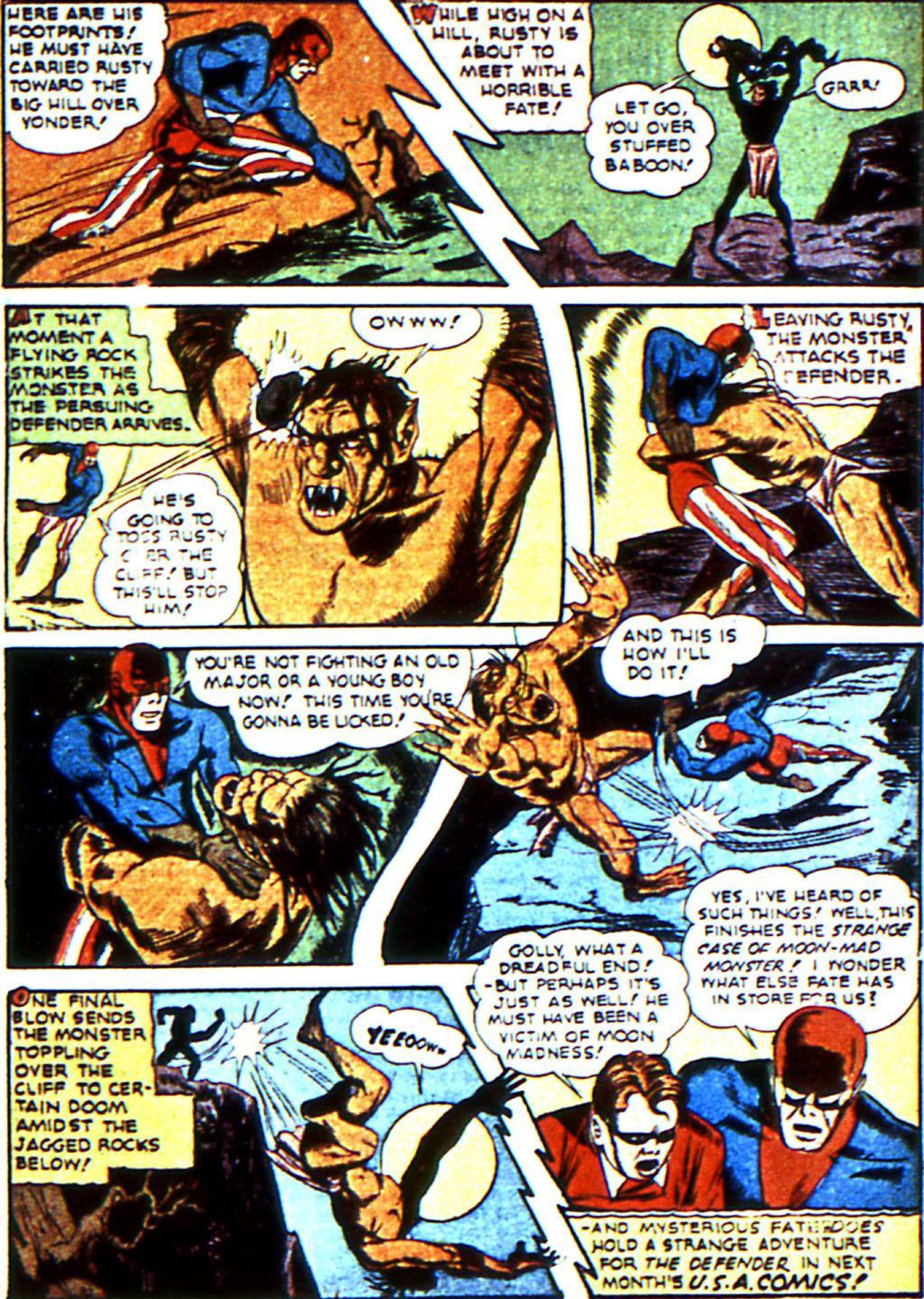

INSIDE THE TENT..
HERE HE IS,.. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!... 250 POUNDS OF MUSCLE AND NO BRAIN!
BOY!! IS HE STRONG!
SEE, RUSTY. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU EAT TOO MUCH SPINACH!
NOW,...OLDOW... BREAK THIS IRON BAR... GO AHEAD!.. BREAK IT!!...
THE PERFORMANCE ENDS...
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.. HE WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT.. IF HE HAD TO!..
=WHEW= I WOULDN'T LIKE TO MEET HIM IN A DARK ALLEY!
C'MON.. KID, LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE THERE IS TO SEE!
RIGHT WITH YOU, DON!
IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S TURN TO OLDOW AGAIN AS HE COMES BACKSTAGE AFTER HIS ACT..
WELL, OLDOW, HOW DID IT GO!
EVERYTHING WENT SWELL!. THE FOOLS FELL FOR THE ACT... HOOK, LINE AND SINKER!
A CHANGE COMES OVER THE BRAINLESS MONSTER.. AFTER THE ACT!..
SO LONG AS I MANAGE TO ACT DUMB ON THAT PLATFORM,... WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT!...


NOW LET'S SEE HOW MUCH WE MADE TO-DAY!
OH, WE MUST HAVE CLEANED UP PLENTY!
BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE FULL MOON COMES OUT!
AND ITS LIGHT STRIKES OLDOW!
BOY, WHAT A HAUL!
AS THE MOONLIGHT HITS THE MONSTER, A CHANGE SEEMS TO COME OVER HIM!
OH, NO, NOT AGAIN! PLEASE DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN - OH, OH, UGHHH!
PRETTY SOON WE'LL BE ABLE TO RETIRE AND THEN--OLDOW! WHAT? DON'T- HELP!
KILL! KILL!
HA, HA, KILL!
HA, THAT WAS GOOD! BUT NOW I MUST KILL MORE! MORE!


SECONDS LATER..
LOOK!
DON'T LET IT GET ME, HELP!..
HELP A MONSTER!
DON STEVENS AND HIS YOUNG PAL QUICKLY REMOVE THEIR OUTER CLOTHES AND STAND REVEALED AS THE DEFENDER AND RUSTY READY FOR ACTION....
COME ON PAL, WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT THING..
THE DEFENDER.. AND RUSTY ATTACK
HA!.. GOT YOU.
WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY, THE TWO MIGHTY JUSTICE SEEKERS BATTLE THE MONSTROUS CREATURE.
YEOW!
OLDOW DASHES RUSTY AGAINST A TREE!...
RUSTY!..
GRRRR
AS THE DEFENDER RUSHES OVER TO AID HIS YOUNG PAL, THE MONSTER LUMBERS AWAY...
RUSTY.. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? SPEAK TO ME KID!.. RUSTY!
OWW... WHAT HIT ME?..
Later.. THE DEFENDER TAKES A VENGEFUL VOW...
YOU GOT AWAY THIS TIME.. BUT THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, MONSTER, BEWARE!


THE NEXT DAY, AT CAMP...
CAMP CARNIVAL TODAY MEN IN UNIFORM ADMITTED FREE!
NOTICE
GEE, DON THAT CARNIVAL WE SAW LAST NIGHT IS GOING TO PLAY AT CAMP TODAY!
WELL, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF CARNIVALS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME!
AW, PLEASE, DON!
OK, KID! LET'S GO!
AND SO DON AND RUSTY SPEND THE DAY AT THE CARNIVAL, LITTLE DREAMING WHAT HORROR LURKS BEHIND ITS GAITY AND LIGHTS.
MIDWAY.
SIDE SHOW
25¢
THAT NIGHT...
LOOK AT THAT SWELL FULL MOON, RUSTY!
OH BOY, DON, THE END OF A PERFECT DAY!
BUT THE SAME MOON WHICH MARKS THE END OF A DAY FOR RUSTY, ALSO BRINGS ABOUT A NEW MENACE IN THE FORM OF THE MONSTER.
ONCE AGAIN THE MOON HAS PENETRATED MY BEING AND GIVEN ME A THIRST FOR BLOOD! I SHALL DRINK DEEP TONIGHT - HA, HA, VERY DEEP!
SECONDS LATER...
HELP!
WHAT'S THAT, DON?
NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS, PAL. LET'S GO!


THE DEFENDER AND RUSTY AGAIN TAKE UP THE CHASE...
IT'S THE MONSTER AGAIN!
...AND HE'S GOT MAJOR ANDERS!
GRRRRR
WE'LL GET HIM THIS TIME!
RACING TOWARD THE MONSTER, THE DEFENDER TRIPS OVER A STONE... AND...
POW
RUSTY LEAPS TO THE ATTACK..
UGHHH..!
SOCK THE DEFENDER WILL YOU?!!
But... THE VALIANT YOUNG RUSTY IS NO MATCH FOR THE LUMBERING GIANT!...
THE BLOOD-MAD MONSTER CARRIES RUSTY AWAY AS THE DEFENDER LIES UNCONSCIOUS..
A MOMENT LATER THE DEFENDER RECOVERS CONSCIOUSNESS!...
WOW!! WHAT A SOCK!..RUSTY!.. HE'S GONE!... THE MONSTER MUST HAVE CARRIED HIM OFF!... I'VE GOT TO CATCH THEM!..


HERE ARE HIS FOOTPRINTS! HE MUST HAVE CARRIED RUSTY TOWARD THE BIG HILL OVER YONDER!
WHILE HIGH ON A HILL, RUSTY IS ABOUT TO MEET WITH A HORRIBLE FATE!
LET GO, YOU OVER STUFFED BABOON!
GRRR!
AT THAT MOMENT A FLYING ROCK STRIKES THE MONSTER AS THE PERSUING DEFENDER ARRIVES.
OWWW!
HE'S GOING TO TOSS RUSTY OVER THE CLIFF! BUT THIS'LL STOP HIM!
LEAVING RUSTY, THE MONSTER ATTACKS THE DEFENDER.
YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING AN OLD MAJOR OR A YOUNG BOY NOW! THIS TIME YOU'RE GONNA BE LICKED!
AND THIS IS HOW I'LL DO IT!
ONE FINAL BLOW SENDS THE MONSTER TOPPLING OVER THE CLIFF TO CERTAIN DOOM AMIDST THE JAGGED ROCKS BELOW!
YEEOOW—
GOLLY, WHAT A DREADFUL END! -BUT PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL! HE MUST HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF MOON MADNESS!
YES, I'VE HEARD OF SUCH THINGS! WELL, THIS FINISHES THE *STRANGE CASE OF MOON-MAD MONSTER*! I WONDER WHAT ELSE FATE HAS IN STORE FOR US?
-AND MYSTERIOUS FATE DOES HOLD A STRANGE ADVENTURE FOR *THE DEFENDER* IN NEXT MONTH'S *U.S.A. COMICS!*

"QUICKER THAN THE EYE!"

by Stan Lee

Paul North was a magician with the All Star Traveling Carnival. Of course, by "magician" I don't mean the type of magician you read about in comic books, the type who can fly and cause people to appear and disappear and do things like that. I mean the type of magician who stands on a platform or stage and amuses an audience by doing clever tricks.

Paul could hold an audience entranced for hours while he worked his many startling tricks and magical effects. It seemed that his knowledge of conjuring was unlimited for he was able to do tricks as long as the audience would watch him.

Paul's most valuable asset were his hands. They were thin with long fingers which could move faster than the eye could follow. He was a past master at the art of slight of hand and could make cards, coins, and other small objects seem to vanish while he held them in his hand. For years Paul had been with the All Star Traveling Carnival and was one of their main and stellar attractions. People came from near and far to watch Paul North, "the man with the educated hands," as the billboards called him.

One day Mr. Peter Wayne, the owner of the carnival, called Paul into his office. "Paul," he said, "something very important has come up and I want to talk to you about it!"

"O.K., Mr. Wayne," said Paul, "fire away!"

Mr. Wayne took a deep breath and then began, "Paul, for many years I've managed this carnival of ours here. I've tried to do it well and wisely and without making any trouble for anyone. I also hoped that nobody would ever cause me any trouble!"

Mr. Wayne looked at Paul with a wistful expression in his eyes. "But I'm afraid we're due for some trouble pretty soon," he sighed.

Paul glanced at Mr. Wayne interestedly. "What's the trouble, Mr. Wayne? Perhaps I can help you."

"Here it is in a nutshell, Paul." Peter Wayne began to explain. "I got a note in the mail this morning—from Lew Jorden. Do you remember him?"

Paul nodded. "Yeah, he's the owner of the 'Brite-Lite Carnival'. I met him a few times but I could never get myself to like him."

Peter Wayne added, "I never liked him either, but now I've got a good reason to hate him!" Wayne pulled a note from his pocket. "Read this," he said.

Taking the note from Wayne, Paul started to read. The note said: "Peter Wayne, your carnival has been hogging all the prosperous cities for itself to play in. You've reached the cities before our carnival and have taken away most of our best business. Let this be a warning to you—stay out of our way in the future—or else! Signed—Lew Jorden"!

After Paul had read the note he handed it back to Peter Wayne, solemnly. "It looks as though he means business, doesn't it?"

Peter's thick, blunt fingers clenched and unclenched nervously. He seemed to be groping about for words, for the proper expression to use which would explain his jumbled emotions and feelings. Finally he said, "Paul, you don't know Lew Jorden as well as I do. You don't know how mean, treacherous, and underhanded he can be. Of course, all that blarney about us moving into the good cities before his own carnival could get there, and about us taking away his business, all that is pure bunk! What Lew Jorden really is angry about is the fact that our carnival is doing better business than his own, and if we were to go out of business, then he would start making real money. He's just trying to frighten us, that's all!"

Paul asked Peter Wayne, "What do you think Lew Jorden intends to do about it, Mr. Wayne?"

Peter Wayne stared blankly into space for a few tense moments. "I don't quite know, Paul.—I don't quite know. But I will say one thing—We're going to double the guards around this carnival of ours! And everyone employed by me is going to be warned to be on constant watch for sabotage and treachery from the outside!"

Mr. Wayne stood up. "Well, Paul," he said. "That's about all there is to tell. I just called you in to inform you about the state of affairs because I wanted someone to talk to and I feel that you, of all my employees, are the most trustworthy! Now, remember to tell the others to be on guard and watch out for yourself also" — Mr. Wayne smiled. "You're one of my most valuable possessions, you know. If anything should happen to you, it would just about wreck my whole carnival!"

Paul shook hands with Peter Wayne and then left.

The magician walked about the carnival grounds for a few moments after leaving Mr. Wayne. He noticed the peacefulness and tranquility of the scene. He watched the crew hands as they pitched the night tents, and the little children who were lingering outside the fence for a cherished glimpse of their circus idols. Somehow, Paul felt there was something very beautiful and yet tragic about a carnival after closing hours. Something which he could never think about without getting a lump in his throat and a peculiar sensation at the back of his mind. He then realized that he loved this carnival—it was life itself to him—it meant more than he could express in mere words.

As Paul passed a particularly dark spot on the carnival grounds he suddenly was aware of eyes peering at him and following his every move. He saw no one and heard no one, but some subtle sixth sense warned him of impending danger!

Quickly the conjurer wheeled about and looked behind him and to all sides, but nobody was to be seen! "Must be my nerves going back on me," thought Paul. "At the next town we stop at I'll visit the doctor." And so he continued walking.

Suddenly Paul felt a pair of strong arms grab him by the neck and iron fingers began to squeeze his wind-pipe. Paul's arms and legs shot out searching for someone they could strike at, but they felt nothing!

Paul couldn't turn his head to look behind him, so he couldn't see the muscular giant standing behind him with tremendously long arms holding tightly to Paul's neck and squeezing tighter and tighter—ever tighter! — And then Paul lost consciousness!

When he awoke he was conscious of a gnawing pain in his neck. Looking around him, Paul saw that he was in a carnival tent. But it wasn't the same tent as the ones of the All Star Traveling Carnival. No, it was a tent of the Brite-Lite Carnival and Paul saw the evil, leering face of Lew Jorden looking down at him! Paul started to get up but he found that he was tied, hand and foot.

"I'm taking no chances on losing you, my friend," leered Lew Jorden. "It was do you any good to try to untie those ropes—they were tied by experts!"

"What's the meaning of this?" cried Paul furiously. "What right have you to kidnap me and tie me up? You certainly don't think you can get away with this, do you?" Paul North was really angry. He struggled desperately in an attempt to loosen his bonds but all his efforts ended in failure while Lew Jorden just smiled sinisterly above him.

"Oh, well," said Jorden. "I'll leave you here for a while until you recover yourself and manage to come to your senses." Jorden started to walk out of the door. "I'm sure that in due time you'll be willing to listen to reason," he said.

"Wait," called Paul. "You win! I'm forced to listen to you—go ahead and tell me what this is all about. The sooner we get this over with the better I'm going to like it!"

Lew Jorden started to walk back into the tent again. "Ah, now you're getting smart!" he smirked. "Sure, I'll tell you what it's all about. To begin with, you're the most valuable attraction that Peter Wayne's carnival has. If you were to—eh, quit his carnival, he'd probably have to go out of business!"

"I still don't see what you're driving at!" said Paul.

Lew smiled. "You will in a second!" Then the crooked carnival owner continued. "Therefore, in order to put Wayne out of business and to have all his trade for myself I've decided to hire you! Simple, isn't it?"

Paul was taken aback for a moment. It certainly was simple—too simple! "Just a second, Jorden," cried Paul. "You're taking it for granted that I'll be willing to work for you! Well, I wouldn't!"

Lew Jorden didn't seem to be worried by Paul's outburst. "Don't be a fool, North," he said. "I'll pay you twice what Wayne was paying you!" But still Paul North shook his head!

"Every man has his price!" snarled Jorden, beginning to get angry at North's obstinacy. "What's your price? I'll pay whatever you want! Money's no object."

Paul North stared icily at Lew Jorden. "Jorden," he said, "there isn't enough money in the world to pay me for working for a skunk like you!"

When Jorden heard this he began to rage. He strode up to North and with a sudden sweep of his arm struck the magician savagely in the face!

Paul North remained motionless, unable to move because of the heavy bonds on his hands and legs. But he never removed his eyes from the snarling figure of Lew Jorden. "Jorden," he said, slowly, methodically, "you've got me trapped now, but someday — mark my words — someday I'll make you pay for this!"

Jorden's face was a mask when he answered. "You'll never get a chance to make anyone pay for anything, humbug! Because I'm going to dispose of you right now!" When Jorden saw the look of surprise in Paul's eyes he laughed harshly. "Ha, ha, you didn't think that I'd let you go back to Peter Wayne if you refused to work for me, did you?—Oh no, you're going to meet with a little accident right now!"

Calling to two of his men, Jorden had Paul North carried out into the carnival grounds. "Now, North," hissed Jorden, "you'd better say your prayers, because you're going to furnish dinner for my big cat in a few seconds!"

This sent shivers up and down Paul North's spine. He knew what Jorden meant by his "big cat." His carnival had just bought a huge bengal tiger a few days ago which was supposed to be the largest and fiercest tiger in captivity!—And Lew Jorden intended to toss him into the tiger's cage!

Jorden and his two men carried Paul to the tiger's cage. When they reached the front of the cage Jorden said, "Untie him. Let him be able to struggle with the tiger before he gets devoured!" Then to Paul, "See? We're going to give you a chance! Ha ha ha!"

The men untied Paul and before he knew what had happened he was inside the huge tiger's cage! The great beast was fast asleep in the corner, but as soon as Paul was hurled into the cage he bestirred himself and started to waken. Jorden and his men walked away, not wanting to see the terrible sight which would await them. "So long, magician!" cried Jorden. "I suppose you'd prefer being a dinner for a tiger to working for me now!" And then they left.

Paul stood up and faced the beast. He knew that he mustn't let himself get panicky now. There must be a way out—there MUST be! He realized that yelling would do no good, for except for Jorden and his men, there were none to hear! He must find a way to defeat the tiger by himself. It would be man against jungle lord — with death as the prize for the loser!

The tiger was now fully awakened and started to slink toward Paul, his stomach almost touching the ground, his tail lashing from side to side in a slow, deadly rhthym, his eyes lit up with the anticipation of stalking a helpless foe!

But just as the tiger was about 3 feet away Paul pulled out a bright green handkerchief from his breast pocket and waved it in front of the beast's eyes in order to catch its attention. The tiger looked at the moving handkerchief, momentarily forgetting its grim purpose of stalking the helpless man. Back and forth, back and forth waved the handkerchief, the eyes of the tiger following every motion. Suddenly, the handkerchief vanished as the thin, lightning swift fingers of the master magician folded it and tossed it into his sleeve faster than the tiger's eye could follow! The beast looked at Paul's empty hand for a second, thunderstruck, and then, before it could come to its senses, Paul yanked three little rubber balls from his pocket and began to juggle with them, making them disappear and reappear while juggling. The tiger watched all this without moving and then slowly backed away from North! This was something it had never encountered before. A being who could make things vanish and appear at will! The further the tiger went from Paul, the better the great beast liked it!

As soon as he saw that the tiger would leave him alone, Paul walked slowly to the cage lock and started to pry it open. He didn't run as fast as he wanted to for fear of the tiger's noticing how frightened he really was. Opening the lock was an easy matter for the ace conjurer whose thin, sensitive fingers easily probed the delicate mainspring and sprung it open.

Upon leaping out of the cage Paul quickly shut it behind him and then started sneaking away from the Carnival of Doom! But no sooner had he gone a few steps than he saw Lew Jorden walking toward him!

Lew saw him at the same moment and stopped in his tracks amazed. "YOU!" he cried! "You're—you're dead!"

Paul decided to frighten Lew before he attacked him. "Yes, I'm dead. You killed me!" said Paul in a deep, hollow voice. "But I've come back from the grave to haunt you for the rest of your life!"

At this Lew Jorden turned a deathly pale and clutched at his heart. "No—no—NO!" he screamed! "It's not possible—it's not—ugh!" With a gurgled gasp, Lew Jorden fell to the ground!

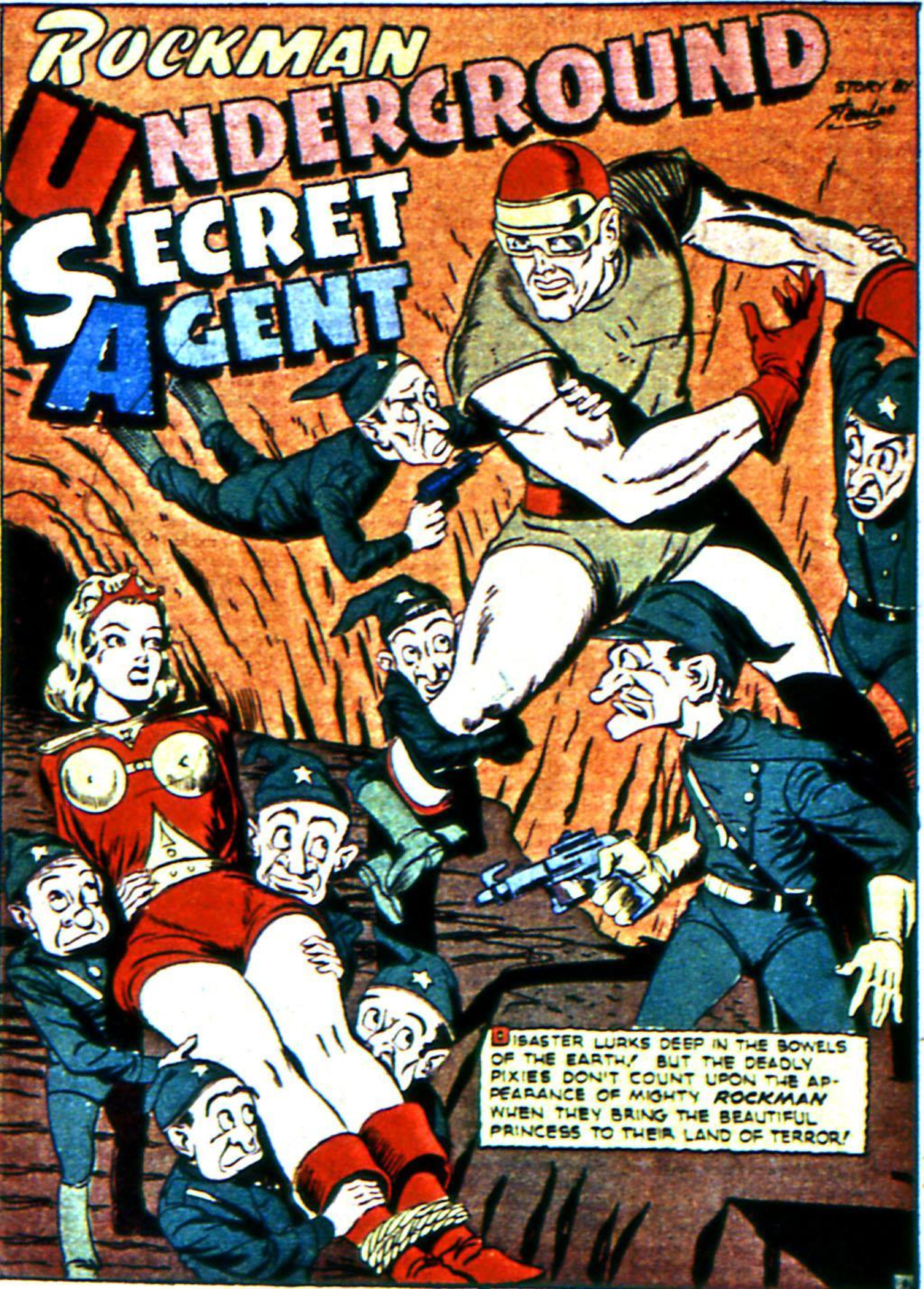
Paul bent down over him and felt his pulse in surprise. "He — he's dead!" exclaimed Paul. "He died of heart failure—of deadly fear—the coward!"

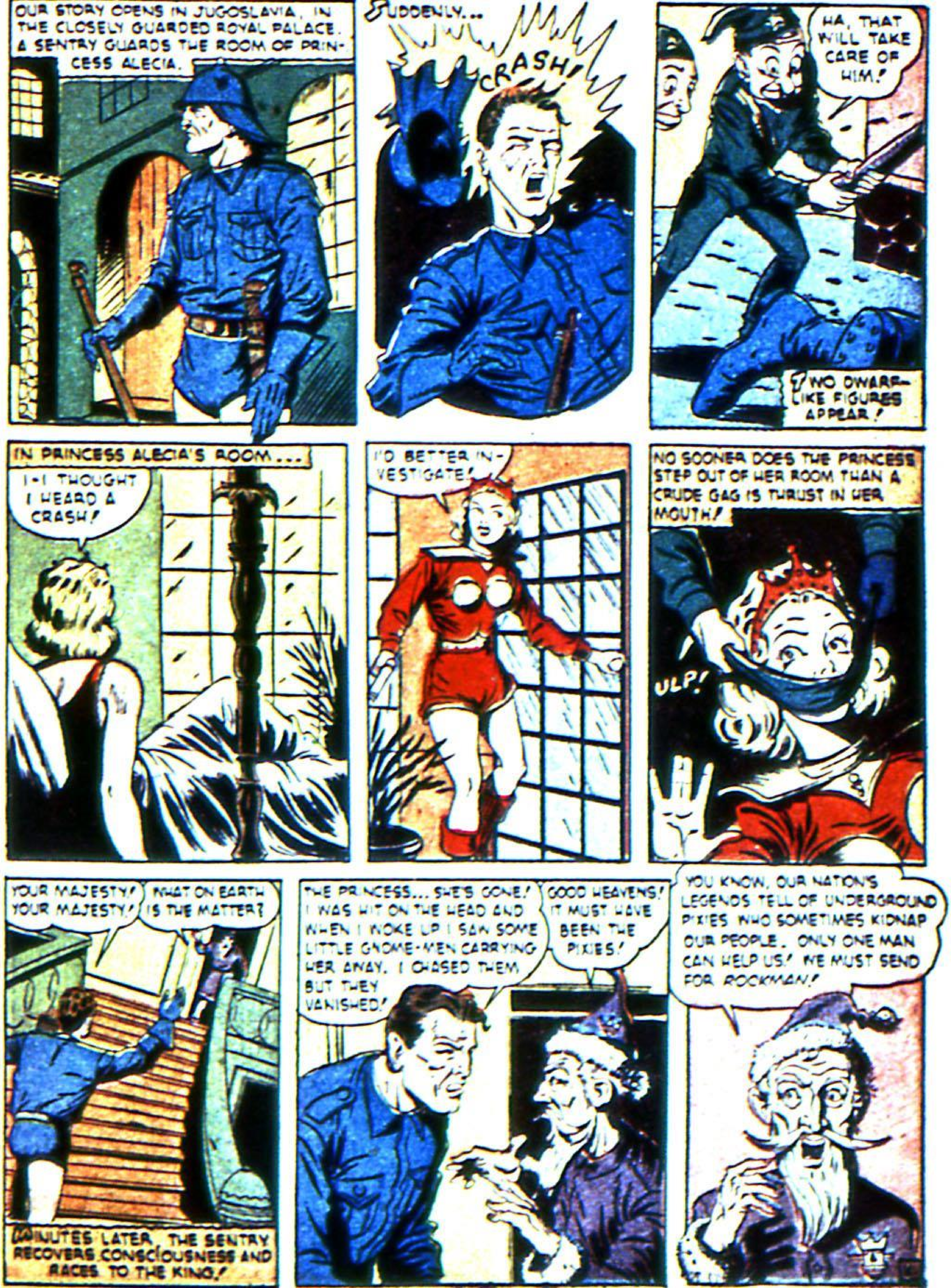
* * *

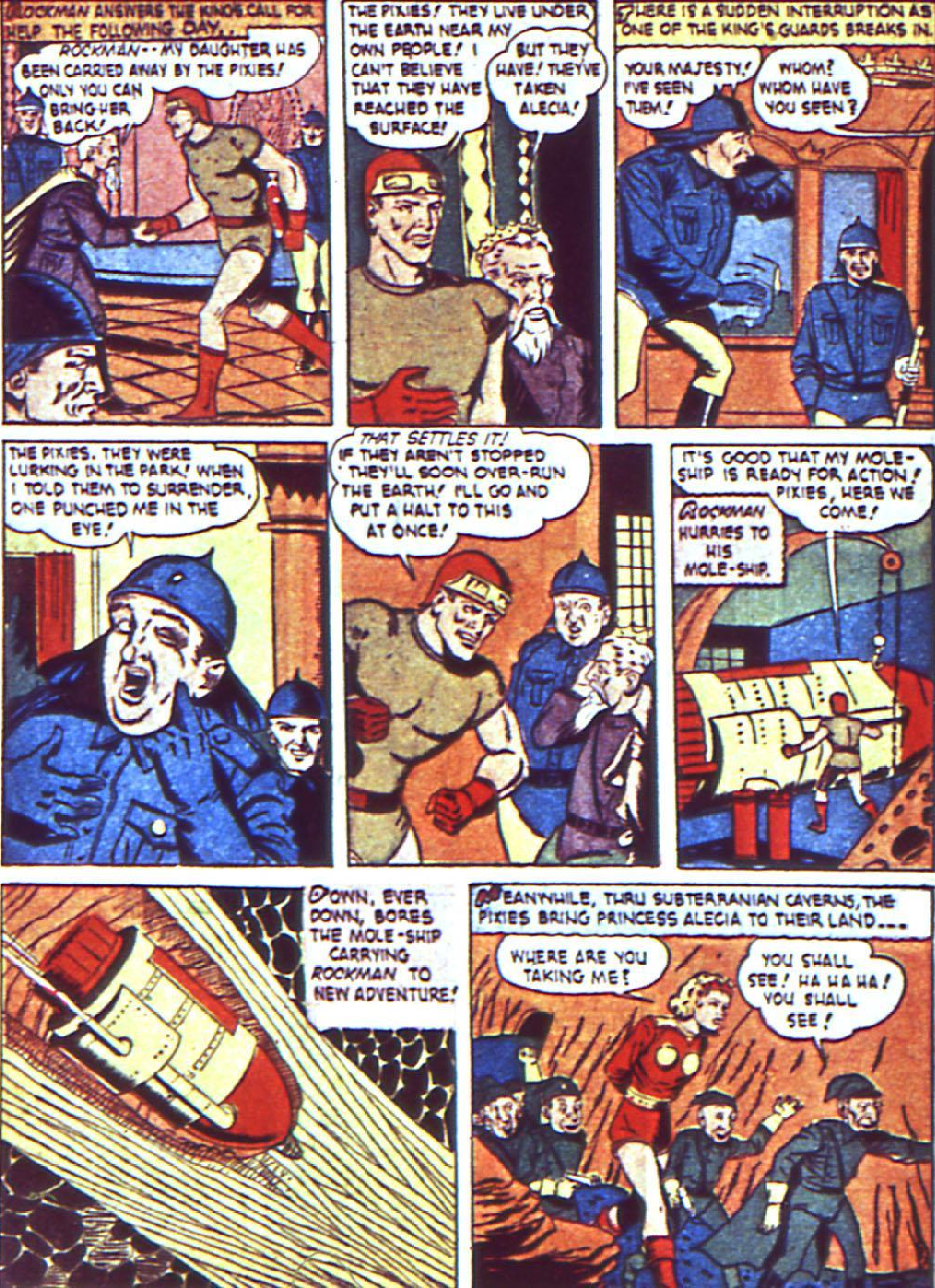
The next day Paul North and Peter Wayne were talking. Peter said, "Well, Paul, I'm glad that our worries are over now. But Lew Jorden should have known one thing: he should have known better than to pick on a magician when he wanted to start trouble!"

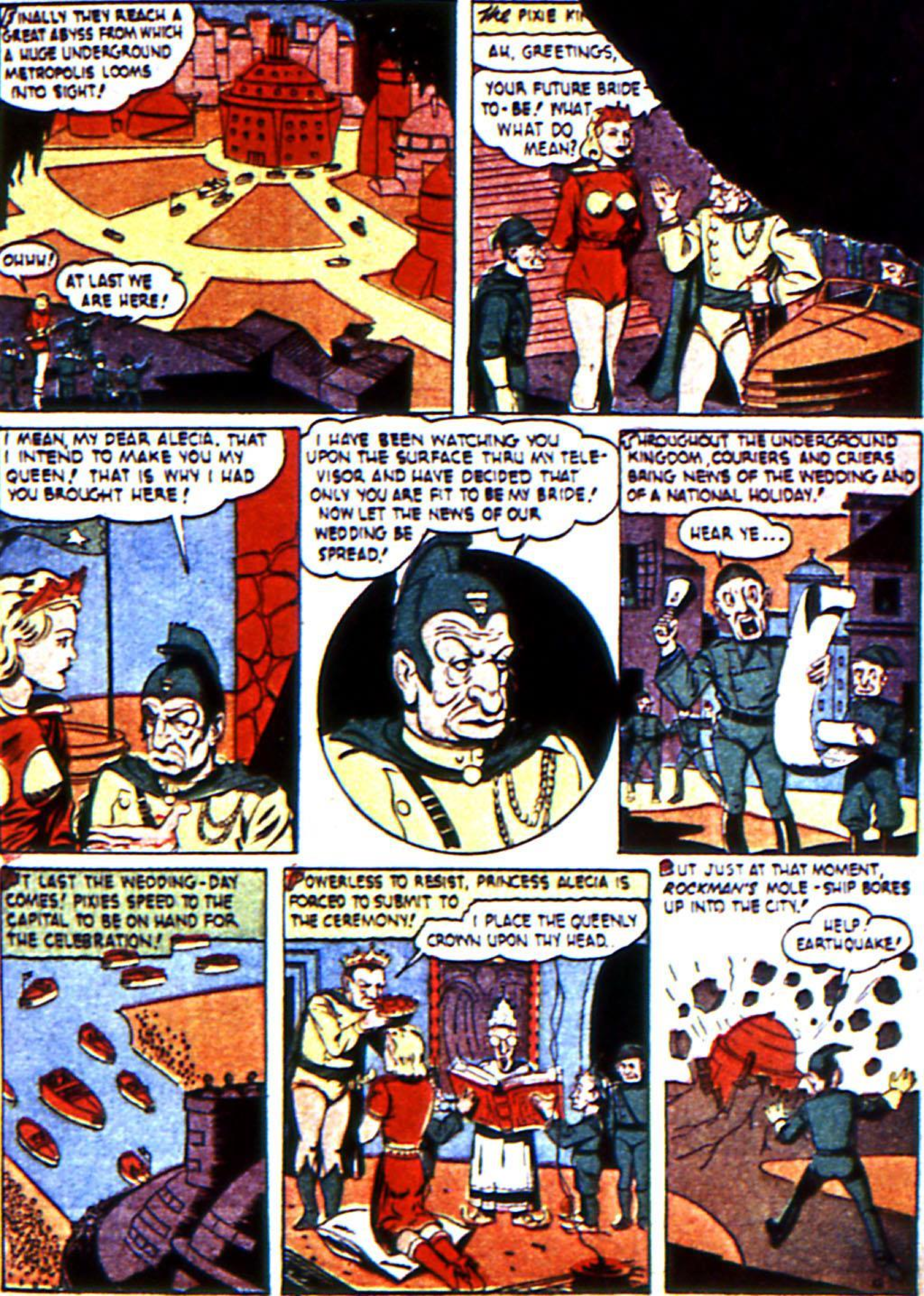
ROCKMAN

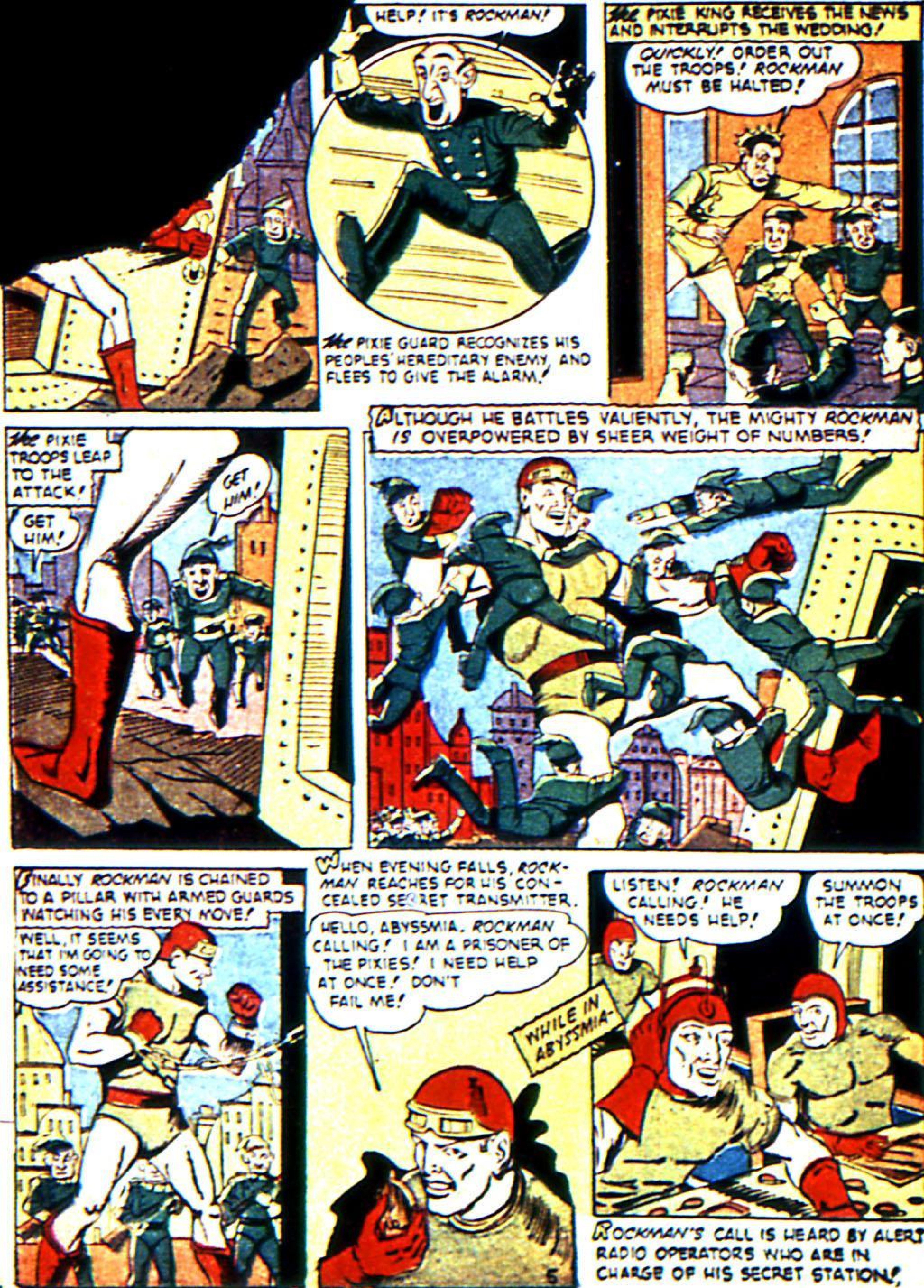
UNDERGROUND SECRET AGENT

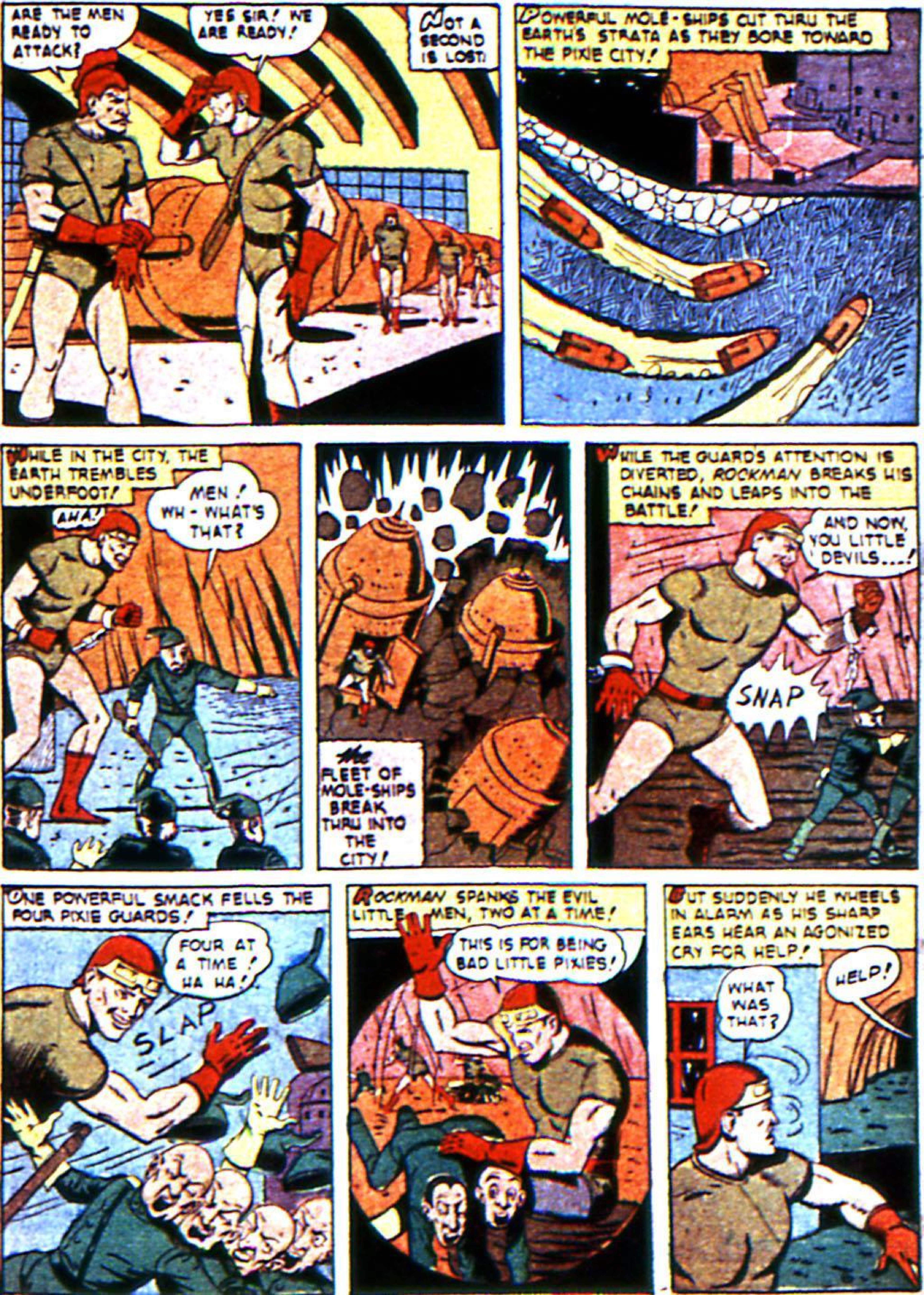

STORY BY
Stan Lee
DISASTER LURKS DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH! BUT THE DEADLY PIXIES DON'T COUNT UPON THE APPEARANCE OF MIGHTY *ROCKMAN* WHEN THEY BRING THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS TO THEIR LAND OF TERROR!

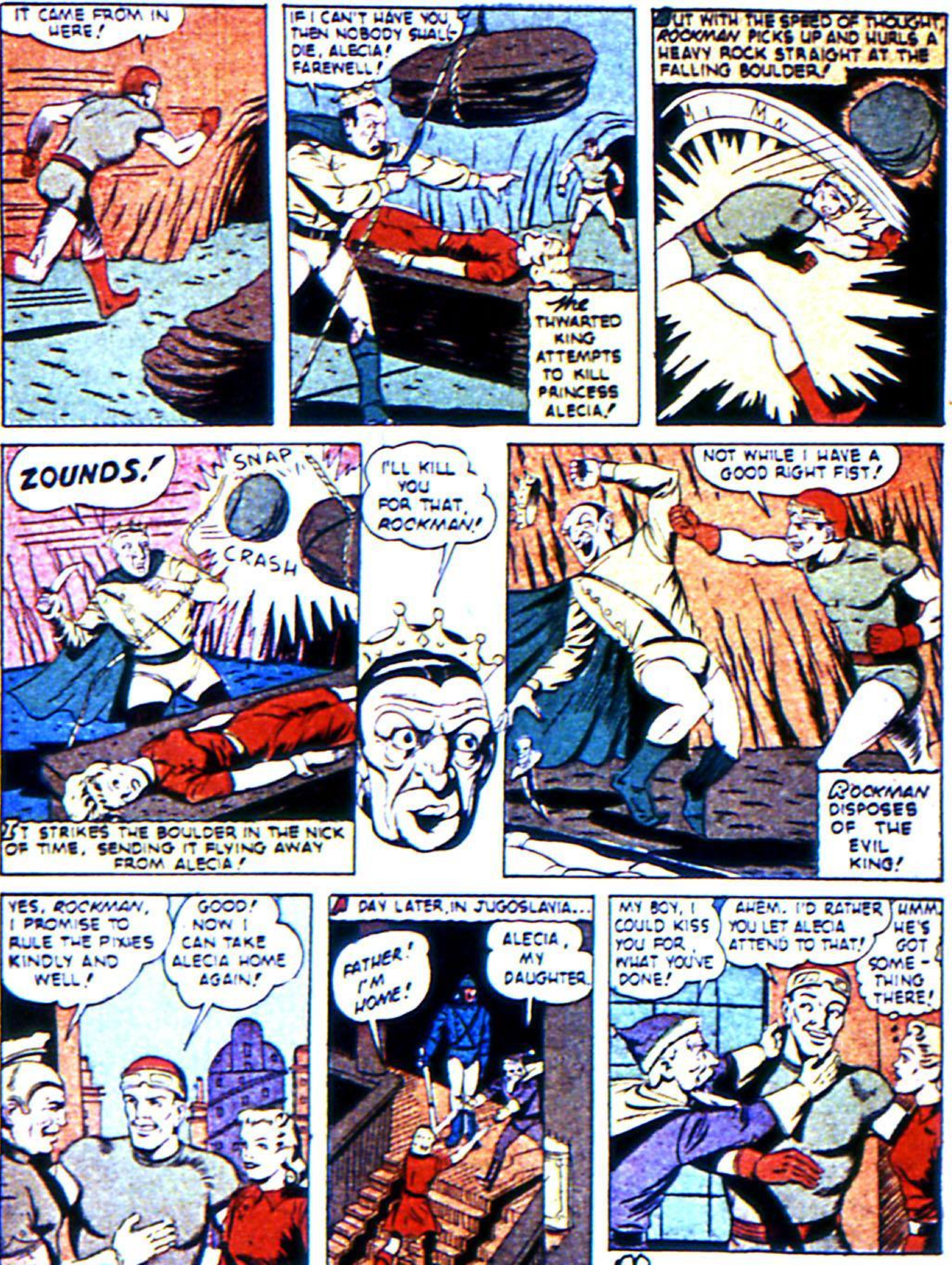

OUR STORY OPENS IN JUGOSLAVIA, IN THE CLOSELY GUARDED ROYAL PALACE. A SENTRY GUARDS THE ROOM OF PRINCESS ALECIA.
SUDDENLY...
CRASH!
HA, THAT WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
TWO DWARF-LIKE FIGURES APPEAR!
IN PRINCESS ALECIA'S ROOM...
I-I THOUGHT I HEARD A CRASH!
I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE!
NO SOONER DOES THE PRINCESS STEP OUT OF HER ROOM THAN A CRUDE GAG IS THRUST IN HER MOUTH!
ULP!
YOUR MAJESTY! YOUR MAJESTY!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MATTER?
MINUTES LATER THE SENTRY RECOVERS CONSCIOUSNESS AND RACES TO THE KING!
THE PRINCESS... SHE'S GONE! I WAS HIT ON THE HEAD AND WHEN I WOKE UP I SAW SOME LITTLE GNOME-MEN CARRYING HER AWAY. I CHASED THEM BUT THEY VANISHED!
GOOD HEAVENS! IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE PIXIES!
YOU KNOW, OUR NATION'S LEGENDS TELL OF UNDERGROUND PIXIES WHO SOMETIMES KIDNAP OUR PEOPLE. ONLY ONE MAN CAN HELP US! WE MUST SEND FOR ROCKMAN!


ROCKMAN ANSWERS THE KING'S CALL FOR HELP THE FOLLOWING DAY...
ROCKMAN - - MY DAUGHTER HAS BEEN CARRIED AWAY BY THE PIXIES! ONLY YOU CAN BRING HER BACK!
THE PIXIES! THEY LIVE UNDER THE EARTH NEAR MY OWN PEOPLE! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE REACHED THE SURFACE!
BUT THEY HAVE! THEY'VE TAKEN ALECIA!
THERE IS A SUDDEN INTERRUPTION AS ONE OF THE KING'S GUARDS BREAKS IN.
YOUR MAJESTY! I'VE SEEN THEM!
WHOM? WHOM HAVE YOU SEEN?
THE PIXIES. THEY WERE LURKING IN THE PARK! WHEN I TOLD THEM TO SURRENDER, ONE PUNCHED ME IN THE EYE!
THAT SETTLES IT! IF THEY AREN'T STOPPED THEY'LL SOON OVER-RUN THE EARTH! I'LL GO AND PUT A HALT TO THIS AT ONCE!
IT'S GOOD THAT MY MOLE-SHIP IS READY FOR ACTION! PIXIES, HERE WE COME!
ROCKMAN HURRIES TO HIS MOLE-SHIP.
DOWN, EVER DOWN, BORES THE MOLE-SHIP CARRYING ROCKMAN TO NEW ADVENTURE!
MEANWHILE, THRU SUBTERRANIAN CAVERNS, THE PIXIES BRING PRINCESS ALECIA TO THEIR LAND...
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME!
YOU SHALL SEE! HA HA HA! YOU SHALL SEE!


FINALLY THEY REACH A GREAT ABYSS FROM WHICH A HUGE UNDERGROUND METROPOLIS LOOMS INTO SIGHT!
OHWW!
AT LAST WE ARE HERE!
THE PIXIE KI
AH, GREETINGS,
YOUR FUTURE BRIDE-TO-BE! WHAT-WHAT DO MEAN?
I MEAN, MY DEAR ALECIA, THAT I INTEND TO MAKE YOU MY QUEEN! THAT IS WHY I HAD YOU BROUGHT HERE!
I HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOU UPON THE SURFACE THRU MY TELEVISOR AND HAVE DECIDED THAT ONLY YOU ARE FIT TO BE MY BRIDE! NOW LET THE NEWS OF OUR WEDDING BE SPREAD!
THROUGHOUT THE UNDERGROUND KINGDOM, COURIERS AND CRIERS BRING NEWS OF THE WEDDING AND OF A NATIONAL HOLIDAY!
HEAR YE...
AT LAST THE WEDDING-DAY COMES! PIXIES SPEED TO THE CAPITAL TO BE ON HAND FOR THE CELEBRATION!
POWERLESS TO RESIST, PRINCESS ALECIA IS FORCED TO SUBMIT TO THE CEREMONY!
I PLACE THE QUEENLY CROWN UPON THY HEAD.
BUT JUST AT THAT MOMENT, ROCKMAN'S MOLE-SHIP BORES UP INTO THE CITY!
HELP! EARTHQUAKE!


HELP! IT'S ROCKMAN!
THE PIXIE GUARD RECOGNIZES HIS PEOPLES' HEREDITARY ENEMY, AND FLEES TO GIVE THE ALARM!
THE PIXIE KING RECEIVES THE NEWS AND INTERRUPTS THE WEDDING!
QUICKLY! ORDER OUT THE TROOPS! ROCKMAN MUST BE HALTED!
THE PIXIE TROOPS LEAP TO THE ATTACK!
GET HIM!
GET HIM!
ALTHOUGH HE BATTLES VALIENTLY, THE MIGHTY ROCKMAN IS OVERPOWERED BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!
FINALLY ROCKMAN IS CHAINED TO A PILLAR WITH ARMED GUARDS WATCHING HIS EVERY MOVE!
WELL, IT SEEMS THAT I'M GOING TO NEED SOME ASSISTANCE!
WHEN EVENING FALLS, ROCKMAN REACHES FOR HIS CONCEALED SECRET TRANSMITTER.
HELLO, ABYSSMIA. ROCKMAN CALLING! I AM A PRISONER OF THE PIXIES! I NEED HELP AT ONCE! DON'T FAIL ME!
WHILE IN ABYSSMIA-
LISTEN! ROCKMAN CALLING! HE NEEDS HELP!
SUMMON THE TROOPS AT ONCE!
ROCKMAN'S CALL IS HEARD BY ALERT RADIO OPERATORS WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF HIS SECRET STATION!


ARE THE MEN READY TO ATTACK?
YES SIR! WE ARE READY!
NOT A SECOND IS LOST!
POWERFUL MOLE-SHIPS CUT THRU THE EARTH'S STRATA AS THEY BORE TOWARD THE PIXIE CITY!
WHILE IN THE CITY, THE EARTH TREMBLES UNDERFOOT!
AHA!
MEN! WH-WHAT'S THAT?
THE FLEET OF MOLE-SHIPS BREAK THRU INTO THE CITY!
WHILE THE GUARDS ATTENTION IS DIVERTED, ROCKMAN BREAKS HIS CHAINS AND LEAPS INTO THE BATTLE!
AND NOW, YOU LITTLE DEVILS...!
SNAP
ONE POWERFUL SMACK FELLS THE FOUR PIXIE GUARDS!
FOUR AT A TIME! HA HA!
SLAP
ROCKMAN SPANKS THE EVIL LITTLE MEN, TWO AT A TIME!
THIS IS FOR BEING BAD LITTLE PIXIES!
BUT SUDDENLY HE WHEELS IN ALARM AS HIS SHARP EARS HEAR AN AGONIZED CRY FOR HELP!
WHAT WAS THAT?
HELP!


IT CAME FROM IN HERE!
IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU THEN NOBODY SHALL- DIE, ALECIA! FAREWELL!
THE THWARTED KING ATTEMPTS TO KILL PRINCESS ALECIA!
BUT WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT ROCKMAN PICKS UP AND HURLS A HEAVY ROCK STRAIGHT AT THE FALLING BOULDER!
ZOUNDS!
SNAP
CRASH
IT STRIKES THE BOULDER IN THE NICK OF TIME, SENDING IT FLYING AWAY FROM ALECIA!
I'LL KILL YOU FOR THAT, ROCKMAN!
NOT WHILE I HAVE A GOOD RIGHT FIST!
ROCKMAN DISPOSES OF THE EVIL KING!
YES, ROCKMAN, I PROMISE TO RULE THE PIXIES KINDLY AND WELL!
GOOD! NOW I CAN TAKE ALECIA HOME AGAIN!
THE VICTORIOUS ROCKMAN APPOINTS HIS OWN PRIME MINISTER TO RULE THE CONQUERED PIXIES!
A DAY LATER, IN JUGOSLAVIA...
FATHER! I'M HOME!
ALECIA, MY DAUGHTER.
MY BOY, I COULD KISS YOU FOR, WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
AHEM. I'D RATHER YOU LET ALECIA ATTEND TO THAT!
HMM. HE'S GOT SOMETHING THERE!

MORE THRILLING ADVENTURES OF *ROCKMAN* IN NEXT MONTH'S **U.S.A. COMICS!**

The BIGGEST EVENT OF THE CENTURY!

HERE'S **REAL** NEWS: THE WORLD'S TWO MOST FAMOUS COMIC ADVENTURE HEROES ARE NOW APPEARING IN THEIR OWN, BRAND-NEW ADVENTURE MAGAZINE!

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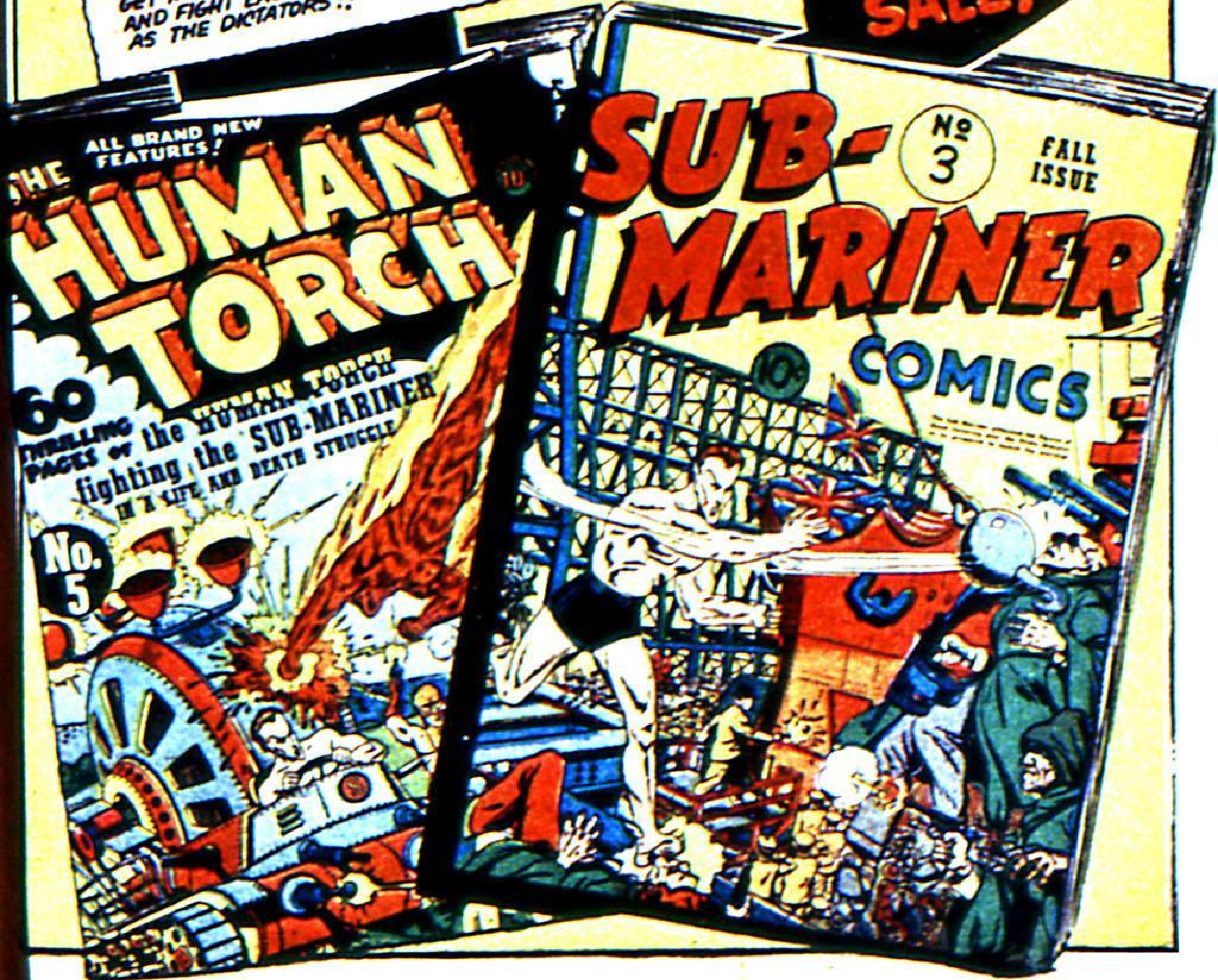
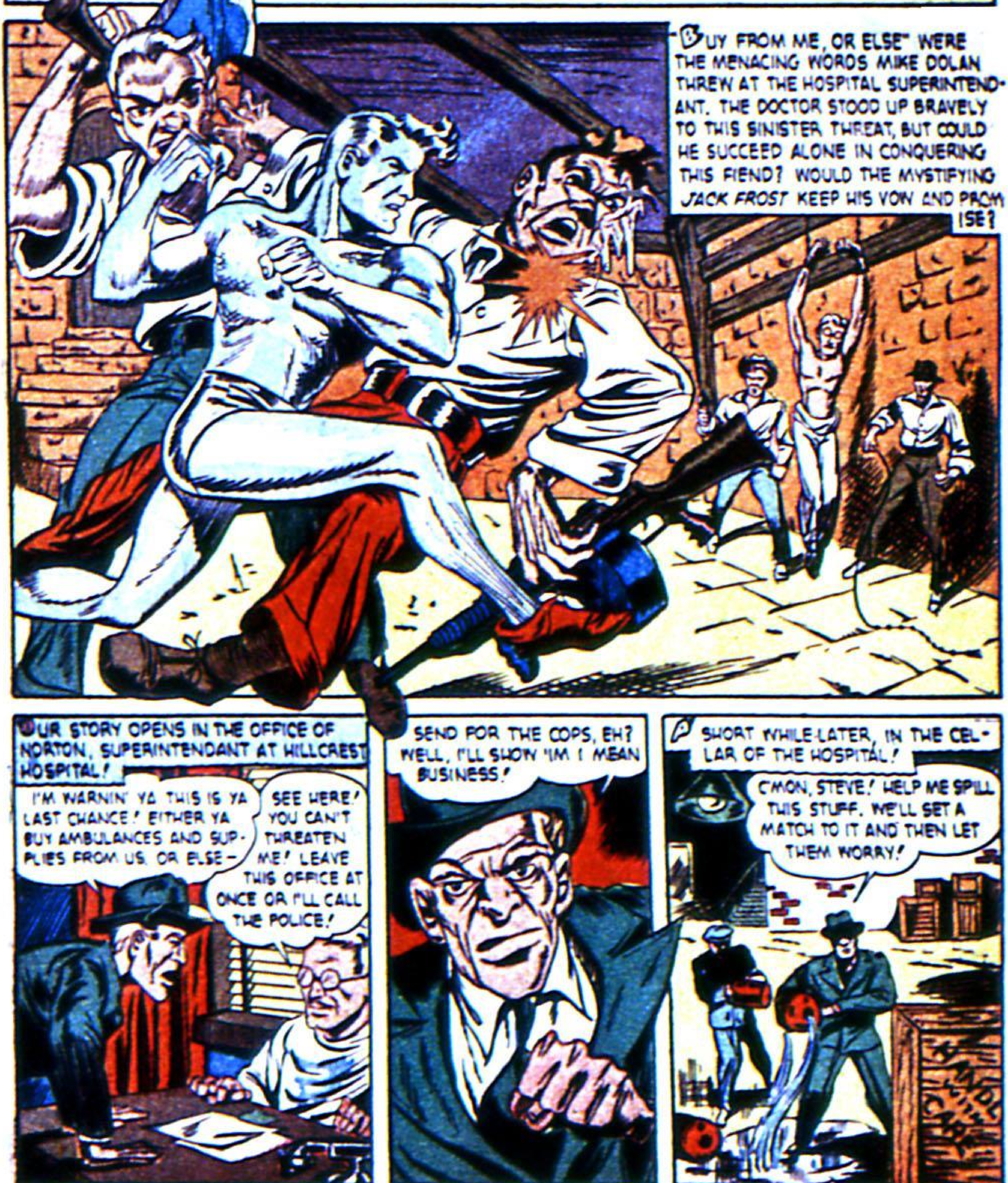
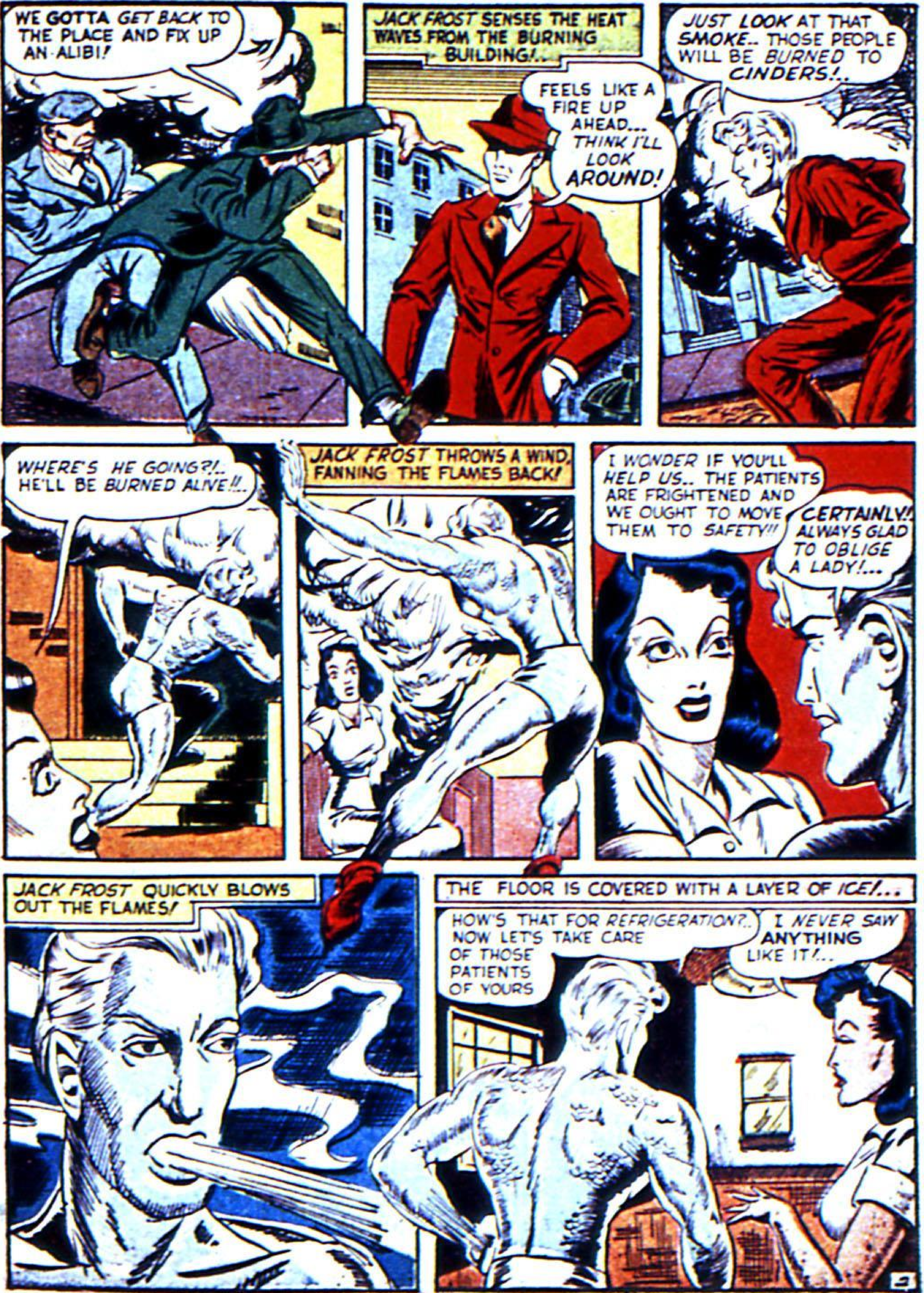
DON'T MISS EITHER ONE OF THESE SENSATIONALLY THRILLING COMIC MAGAZINES!

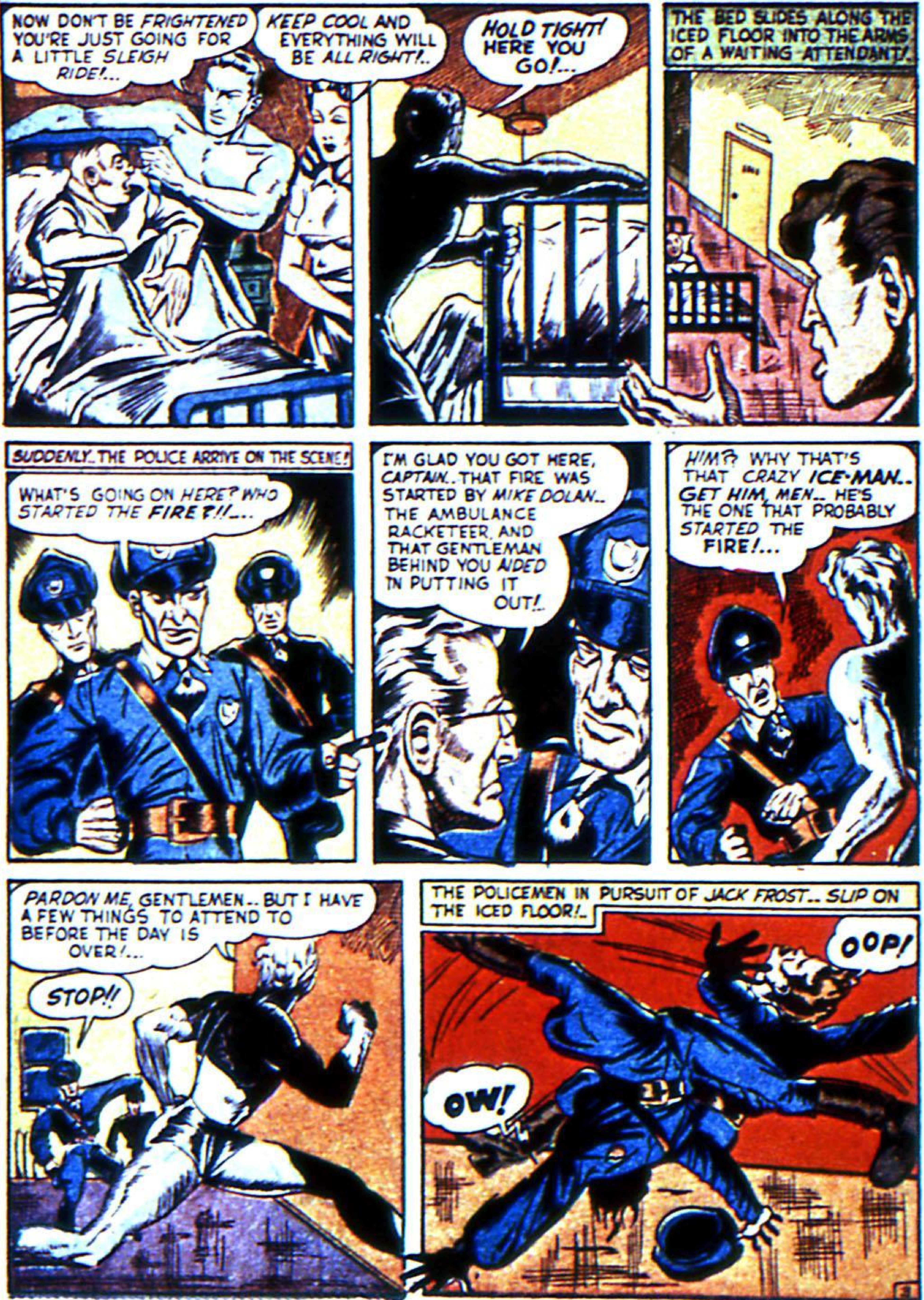
NOW ON SALE!

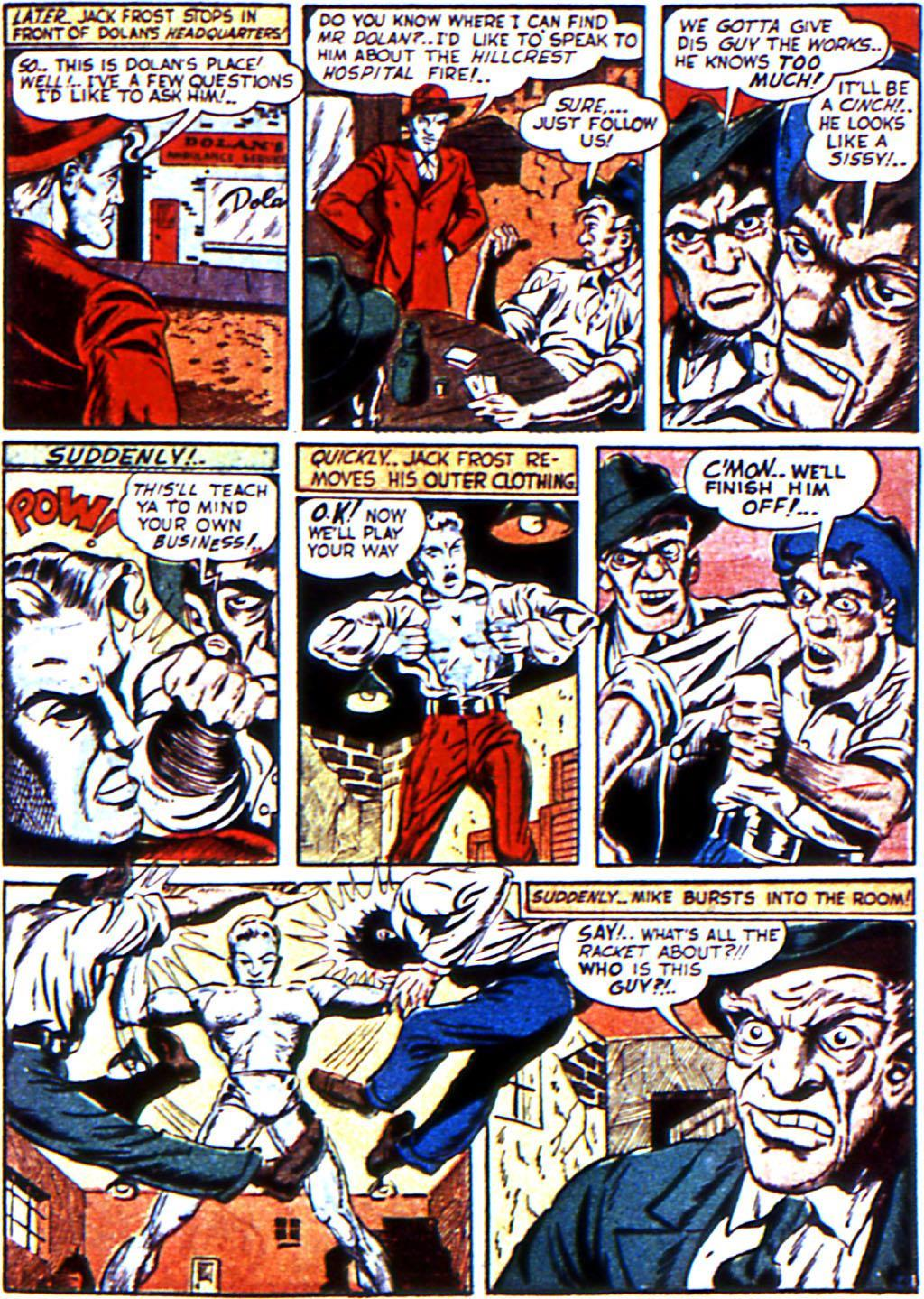

ALL BRAND NEW FEATURES!
THE HUMAN TORCH
10¢
60 THRILLING PAGES of the HUMAN TORCH fighting the SUB-MARINER IN A LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE
No. 5
SUB-MARINER
No 3
FALL ISSUE
10¢
COMICS

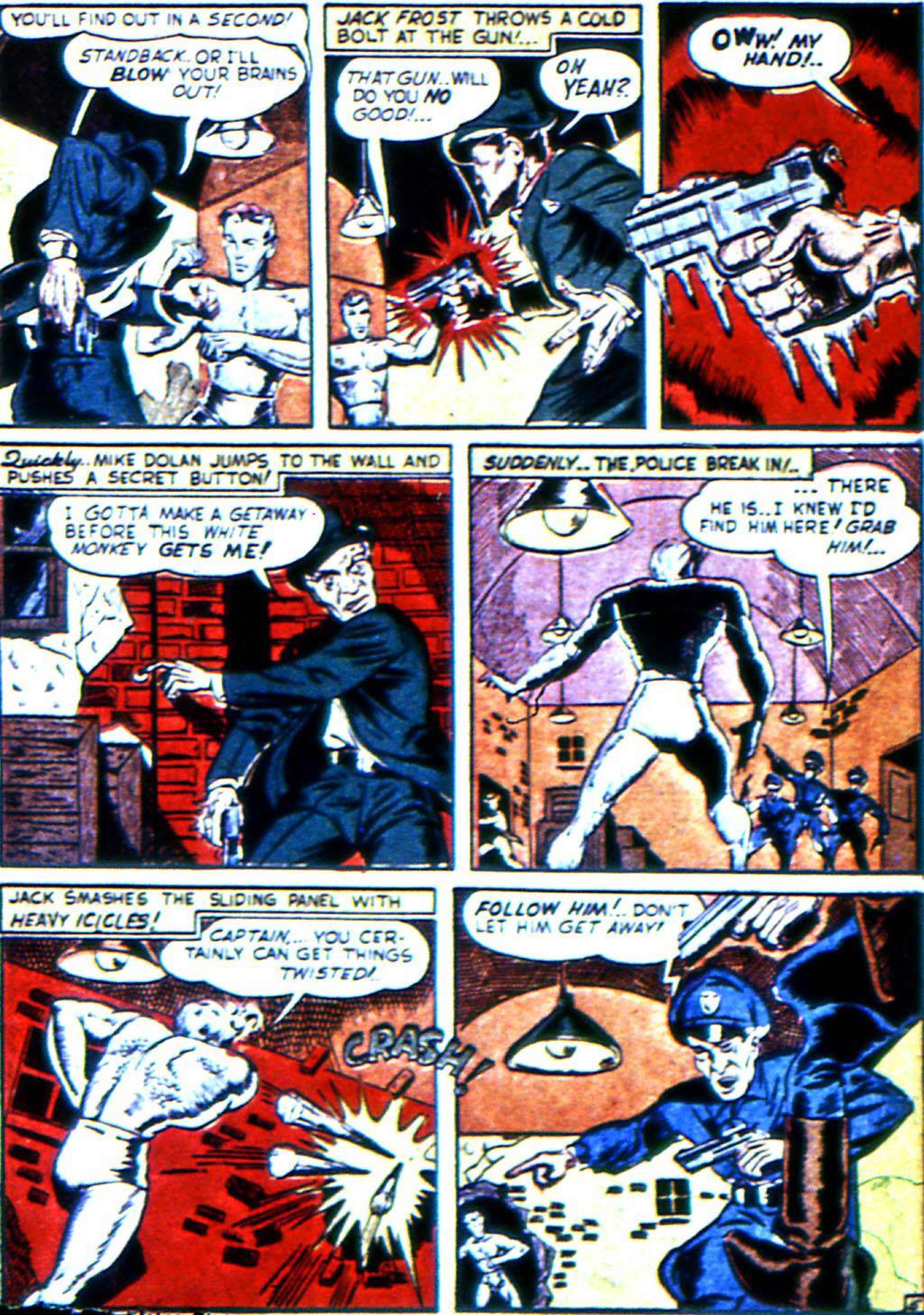
JACK FROST

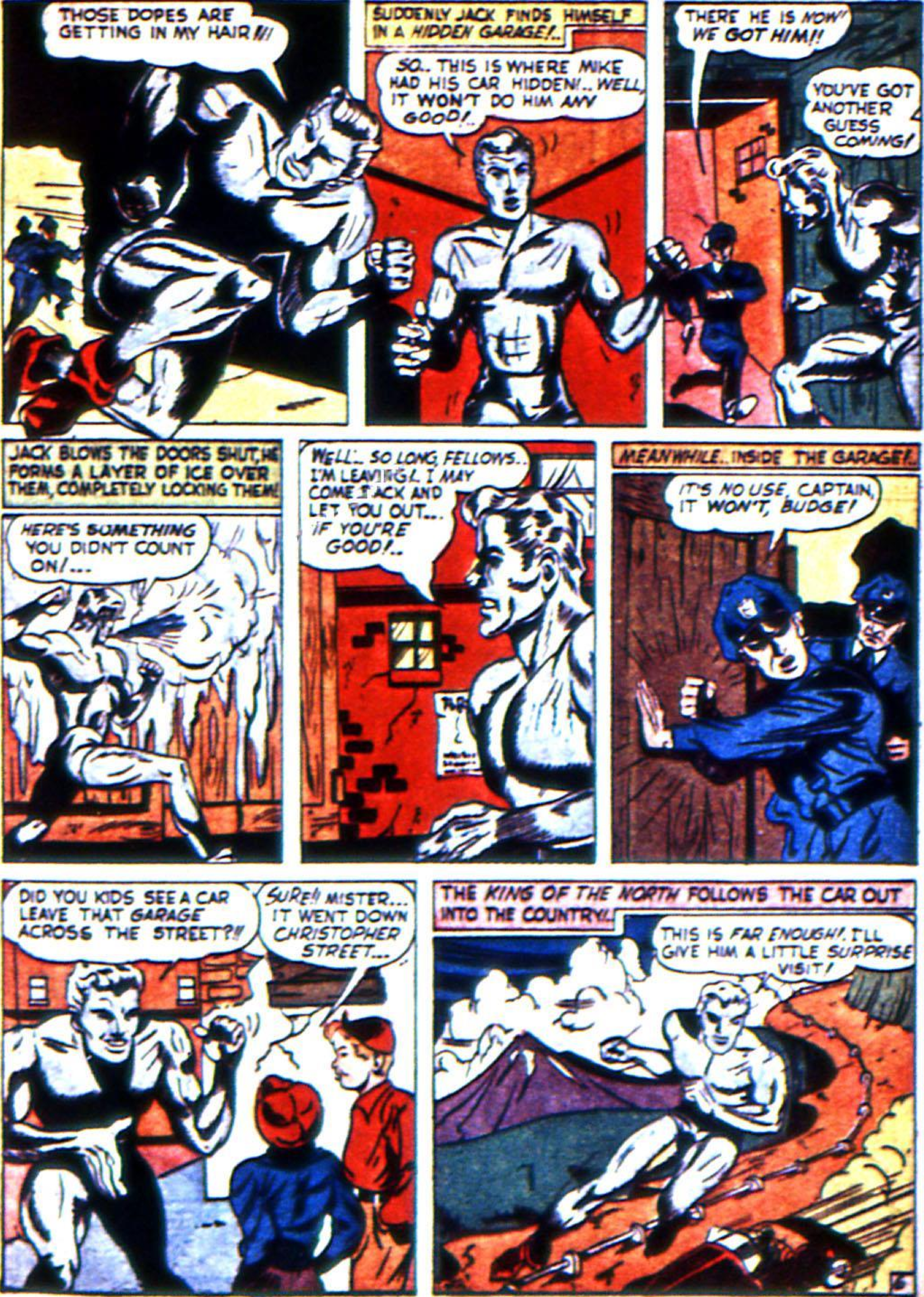

"BUY FROM ME, OR ELSE" WERE THE MENACING WORDS MIKE DOLAN THREW AT THE HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDANT. THE DOCTOR STOOD UP BRAVELY TO THIS SINISTER THREAT, BUT COULD HE SUCCEED ALONE IN CONQUERING THIS FIEND? WOULD THE MYSTIFYING JACK FROST KEEP HIS VOW AND PROMISE?
OUR STORY OPENS IN THE OFFICE OF NORTON, SUPERINTENDANT AT HILLCREST HOSPITAL!
I'M WARNIN' YA THIS IS YA LAST CHANCE! EITHER YA BUY AMBULANCES AND SUPPLIES FROM US, OR ELSE—
SEE HERE! YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME! LEAVE THIS OFFICE AT ONCE OR I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
SEND FOR THE COPS, EH? WELL, I'LL SHOW 'IM I MEAN BUSINESS!
A SHORT WHILE LATER, IN THE CELLAR OF THE HOSPITAL!
C'MON, STEVE! HELP ME SPILL THIS STUFF. WE'LL SET A MATCH TO IT AND THEN LET THEM WORRY!
HANDLE WITH CARE

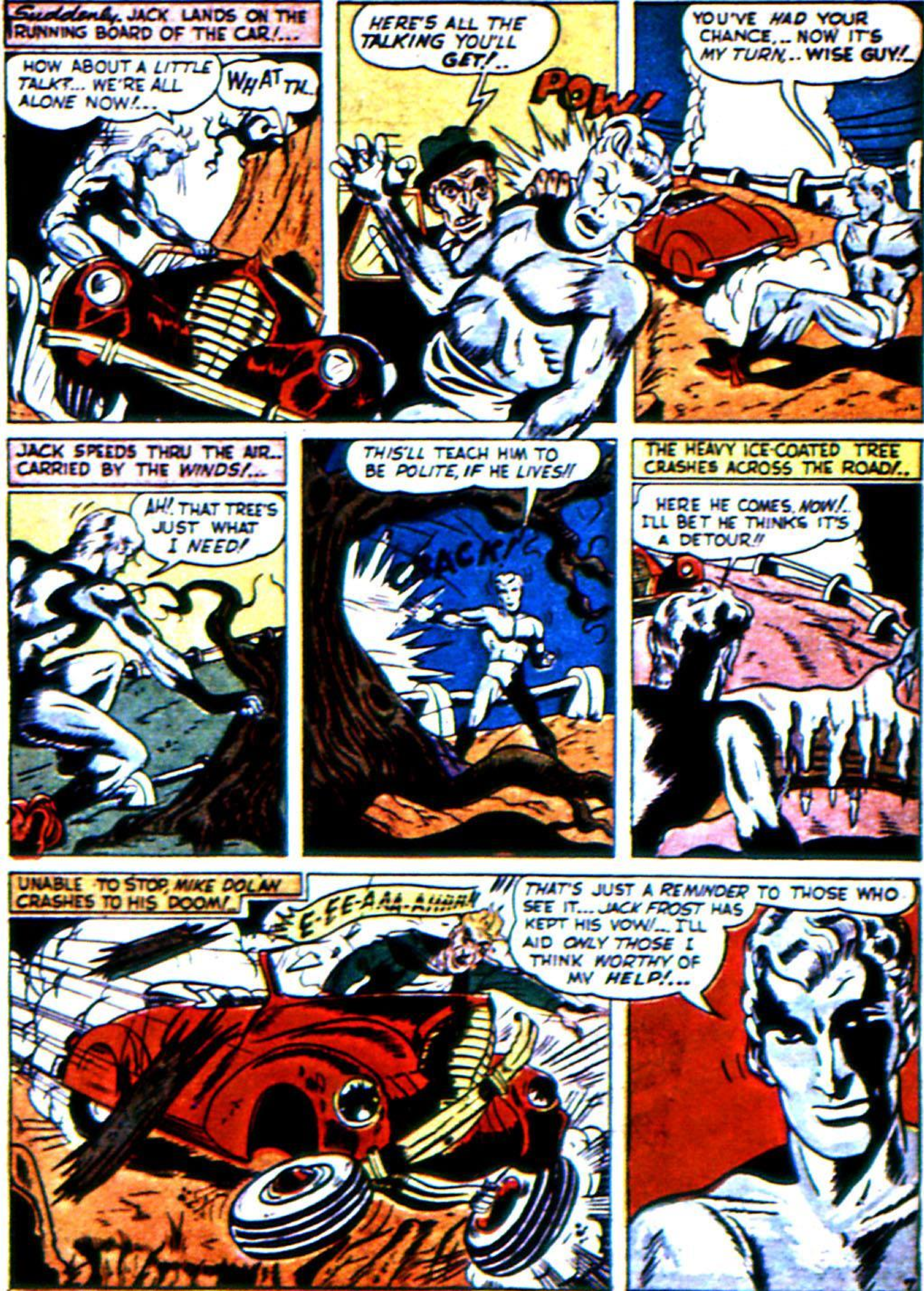

WE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE PLACE AND FIX UP AN ALIBI!
JACK FROST SENSES THE HEAT WAVES FROM THE BURNING BUILDING!..
FEELS LIKE A FIRE UP AHEAD... THINK I'LL LOOK AROUND!
JUST LOOK AT THAT SMOKE.. THOSE PEOPLE WILL BE BURNED TO CINDERS!..
WHERE'S HE GOING?!.. HE'LL BE BURNED ALIVE!!..
JACK FROST THROWS A WIND, FANNING THE FLAMES BACK!
I WONDER IF YOU'LL HELP US.. THE PATIENTS ARE FRIGHTENED AND WE OUGHT TO MOVE THEM TO SAFETY!!
CERTAINLY!! ALWAYS GLAD TO OBLIGE A LADY!...
JACK FROST QUICKLY BLOWS OUT THE FLAMES!
THE FLOOR IS COVERED WITH A LAYER OF ICE!..
HOW'S THAT FOR REFRIGERATION?.. NOW LET'S TAKE CARE OF THOSE PATIENTS OF YOURS
I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT!..


NOW DON'T BE *FRIGHTENED* YOU'RE JUST GOING FOR A LITTLE *SLEIGH RIDE!*...
KEEP COOL AND EVERYTHING WILL BE *ALL RIGHT!*..
HOLD TIGHT! HERE YOU GO!...
THE BED SLIDES ALONG THE ICED FLOOR INTO THE ARMS OF A WAITING ATTENDANT!.
SUDDENLY.. THE POLICE ARRIVE ON THE SCENE!
WHAT'S GOING ON *HERE?* WHO *STARTED* THE **FIRE?!!**...
I'M GLAD YOU GOT HERE, *CAPTAIN*.. THAT FIRE WAS STARTED BY *MIKE DOLAN*.. THE AMBULANCE RACKETEER, AND THAT GENTLEMAN BEHIND YOU *AIDED* IN PUTTING IT OUT!.
HIM?! WHY THAT'S THAT *CRAZY* **ICE-MAN**.. ***GET HIM, MEN***... HE'S THE ONE THAT PROBABLY *STARTED* THE **FIRE!**...
PARDON ME, GENTLEMEN.. BUT I HAVE A FEW THINGS TO ATTEND TO BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER!...
STOP!!
THE POLICEMEN IN PURSUIT OF *JACK FROST*.. *SLIP* ON THE ICED FLOOR!.
OOP!
OW!

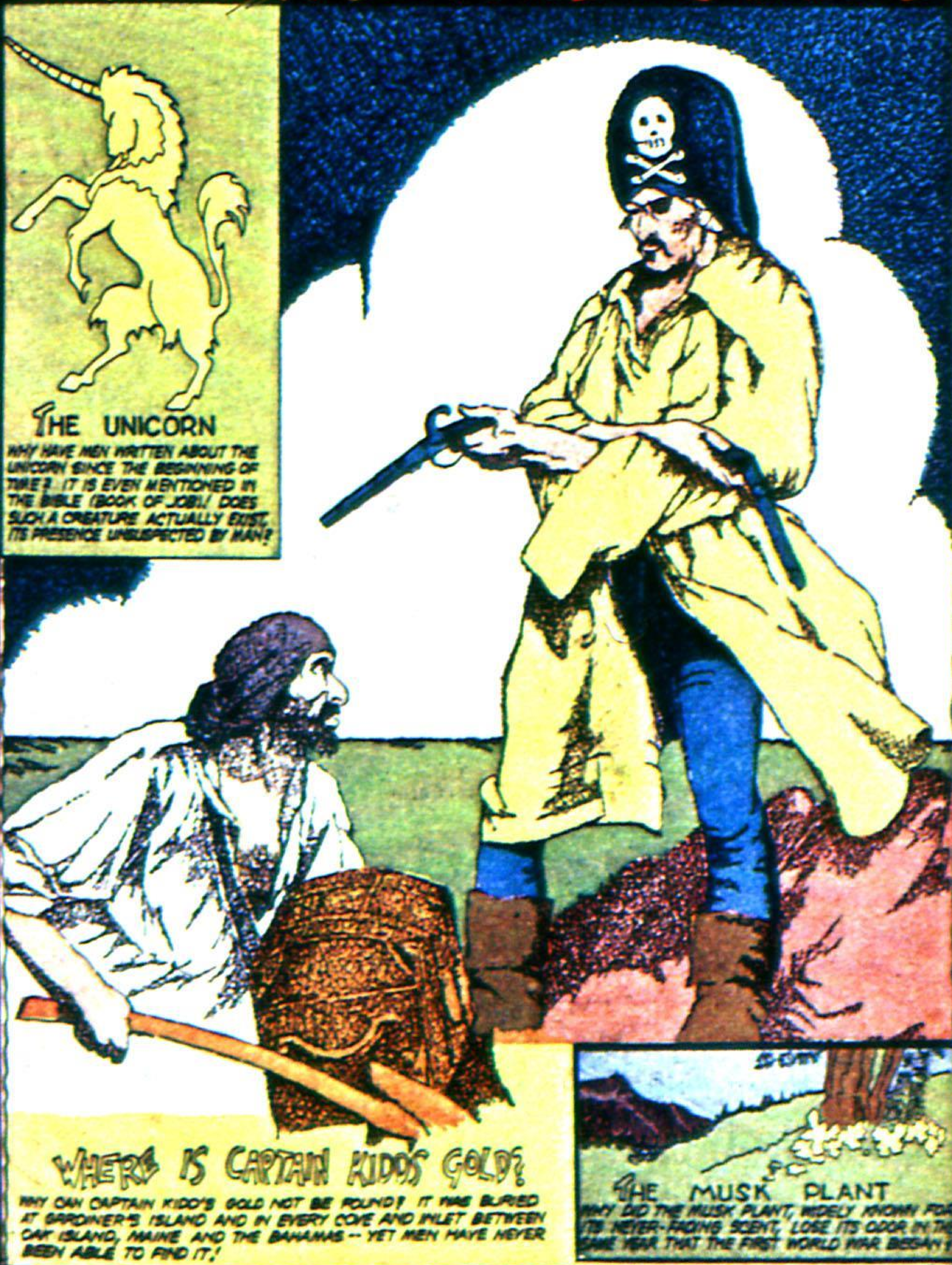

LATER, JACK FROST STOPS IN FRONT OF DOLAN'S HEADQUARTERS!
SO.. THIS IS DOLAN'S PLACE! WELL!.. I'VE A FEW QUESTIONS I'D LIKE TO ASK HIM!..
DOLAN'S AMBULANCE SERVICE
Dola
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND MR DOLAN?..I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO HIM ABOUT THE HILLCREST HOSPITAL FIRE!..
SURE.... JUST FOLLOW US!
WE GOTTA GIVE DIS GUY THE WORKS.. HE KNOWS TOO MUCH!
IT'LL BE A CINCH!.. HE LOOKS LIKE A SISSY!..
SUDDENLY!..
POW!
THIS'LL TEACH YA TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!..
QUICKLY.. JACK FROST REMOVES HIS OUTER CLOTHING
O.K! NOW WE'LL PLAY YOUR WAY
C'MON.. WE'LL FINISH HIM OFF!...
SUDDENLY.. MIKE BURSTS INTO THE ROOM!
SAY!.. WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET ABOUT?!! WHO IS THIS GUY?!..


YOU'LL FIND OUT IN A SECOND!
STANDBACK.. OR I'LL BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT!
JACK FROST THROWS A COLD BOLT AT THE GUN!...
THAT GUN.. WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!...
OH YEAH?
OWW! MY HAND!..
Quickly.. MIKE DOLAN JUMPS TO THE WALL AND PUSHES A SECRET BUTTON!
I GOTTA MAKE A GETAWAY BEFORE THIS WHITE MONKEY GETS ME!
SUDDENLY.. THE POLICE BREAK IN!..
... THERE HE IS.. I KNEW I'D FIND HIM HERE! GRAB HIM!...
JACK SMASHES THE SLIDING PANEL WITH HEAVY ICICLES!
CAPTAIN,... YOU CERTAINLY CAN GET THINGS TWISTED!..
CRASH!
FOLLOW HIM!.. DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!


THOSE DOPES ARE GETTING IN MY HAIR!!!
SUDDENLY JACK FINDS HIMSELF IN A HIDDEN GARAGE!..
SO.. THIS IS WHERE MIKE HAD HIS CAR HIDDEN!.. WELL, IT WON'T DO HIM ANY GOOD!..
THERE HE IS NOW!! WE GOT HIM!!
YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER GUESS COMING!
JACK BLOWS THE DOORS SHUT, HE FORMS A LAYER OF ICE OVER THEM, COMPLETELY LOCKING THEM!
HERE'S SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T COUNT ON!...
WELL.. SO LONG, FELLOWS.. I'M LEAVING!. I MAY COME BACK AND LET YOU OUT... IF YOU'RE GOOD!..
MEANWHILE.. INSIDE THE GARAGE!..
IT'S NO USE, CAPTAIN, IT WON'T, BUDGE!
DID YOU KIDS SEE A CAR LEAVE THAT GARAGE ACROSS THE STREET?!!
SURE!! MISTER... IT WENT DOWN CHRISTOPHER STREET...
THE KING OF THE NORTH FOLLOWS THE CAR OUT INTO THE COUNTRY!..
THIS IS FAR ENOUGH! I'LL GIVE HIM A LITTLE SURPRISE VISIT!


Suddenly, JACK LANDS ON THE RUNNING BOARD OF THE CAR!..
HOW ABOUT A LITTLE TALK?... WE'RE ALL ALONE NOW!...
WHAT TH..
HERE'S ALL THE TALKING YOU'LL GET!..
POW!
YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE,.. NOW IT'S MY TURN,.. WISE GUY!..
JACK SPEEDS THRU THE AIR.. CARRIED BY THE WINDS!...
AH!. THAT TREE'S JUST WHAT I NEED!
THIS'LL TEACH HIM TO BE POLITE, IF HE LIVES!!
CRACK!
THE HEAVY ICE-COATED TREE CRASHES ACROSS THE ROAD!..
HERE HE COMES, NOW!.. I'LL BET HE THINKS IT'S A DETOUR!!
UNABLE TO STOP, MIKE DOLAN CRASHES TO HIS DOOM!..
E-EE-AAA-AHHH
THAT'S JUST A REMINDER TO THOSE WHO SEE IT... JACK FROST HAS KEPT HIS VOW!... I'LL AID ONLY THOSE I THINK WORTHY OF MY HELP!...

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES



THE UNICORN

WHY HAVE MEN WRITTEN ABOUT THE UNICORN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME? IT IS EVEN MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE (BOOK OF JOB)! DOES SUCH A CREATURE ACTUALLY EXIST, ITS PRESENCE UNSUSPECTED BY MAN?

WHERE IS CAPTAIN KIDD'S GOLD?

WHY CAN CAPTAIN KIDD'S GOLD NOT BE FOUND? IT WAS BURIED AT GARDINER'S ISLAND AND IN EVERY COVE AND INLET BETWEEN CAT ISLAND, MAINE AND THE BAHAMAS -- YET MEN HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIND IT!

THE MUSK PLANT

WHY DID THE MUSK PLANT, WIDELY KNOWN FOR ITS NEVER-FADING SCENT, LOSE ITS ODOR IN THE SAME YEAR THAT THE FIRST WORLD WAR BEGAN?

HORROR

Waits on Lonely Cardiff Moor:

Follow Captain America and Bucky as they plunge into the strangest mystery ever to unfold before their startled eyes . . .

—What was the *sinister* secret of the Murderous Hound that Walked Like a Man?

—Why did it mean certain death to be on Cardiff Moor after night-fall?

—Was the Phantom Killer a ghost-hound that no man could stop, or was there a terrible, earthly explanation behind its gory deeds?

These were the awful questions which Captain America and Bucky had to answer before they, too, fell victim to the dagger-like fangs of the Hound of Doom!

No. 10
CAPTAIN AMERICA
COMICS

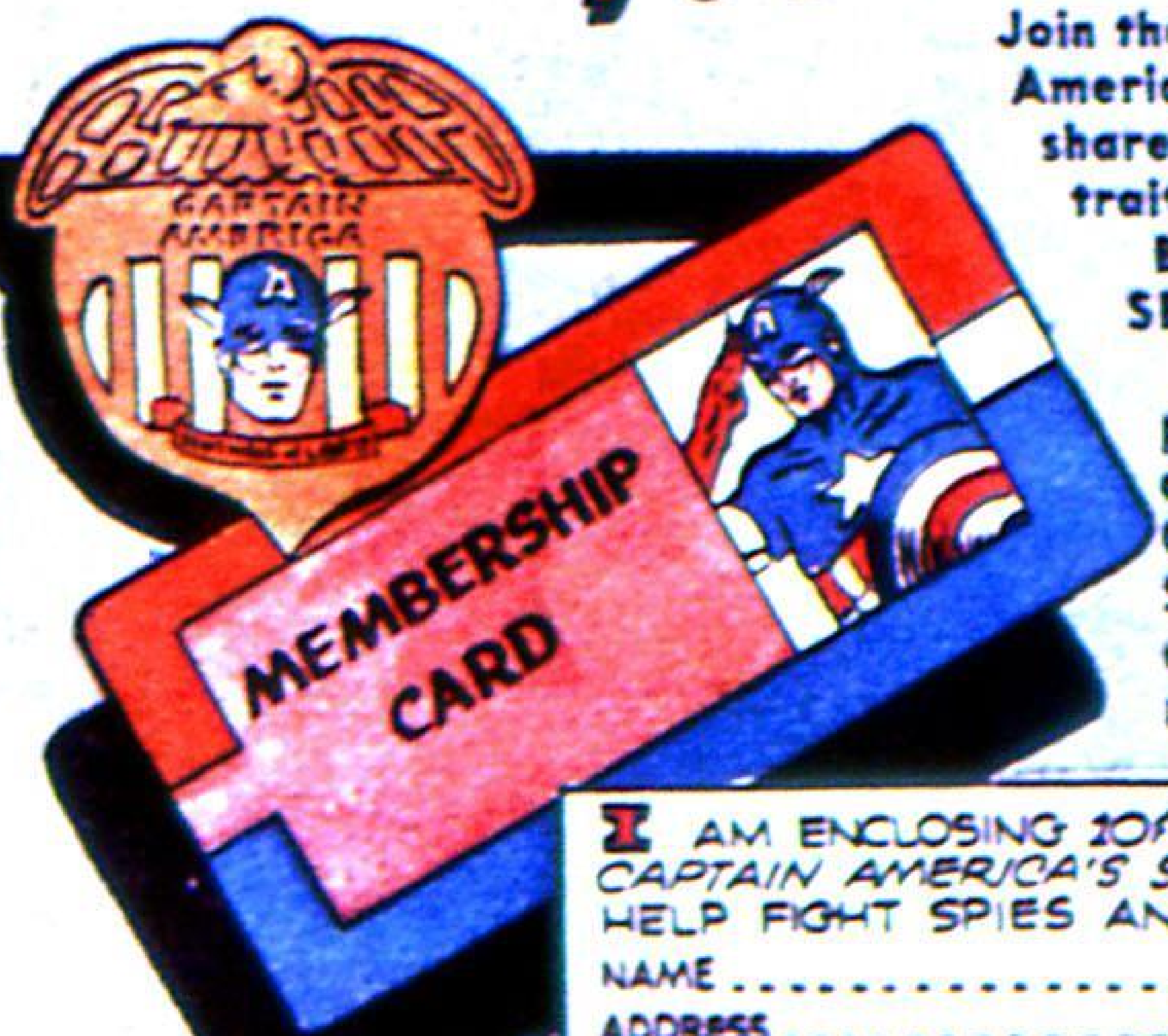
YOU'LL FIND THE WHOLE, SPINE-TINGLING TALE IN THE 10th ISSUE OF

CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS

As well as:

Two other feature thrillers from the Personal Files of Captain America along with three smashing adventure tales of Hurricane, Father Time and Headline Hunter.

YOU CAN JOIN UP WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA NOW!



Join the ranks of the many thousands of American youths who are doing their share in ridding America of spies and traitors!

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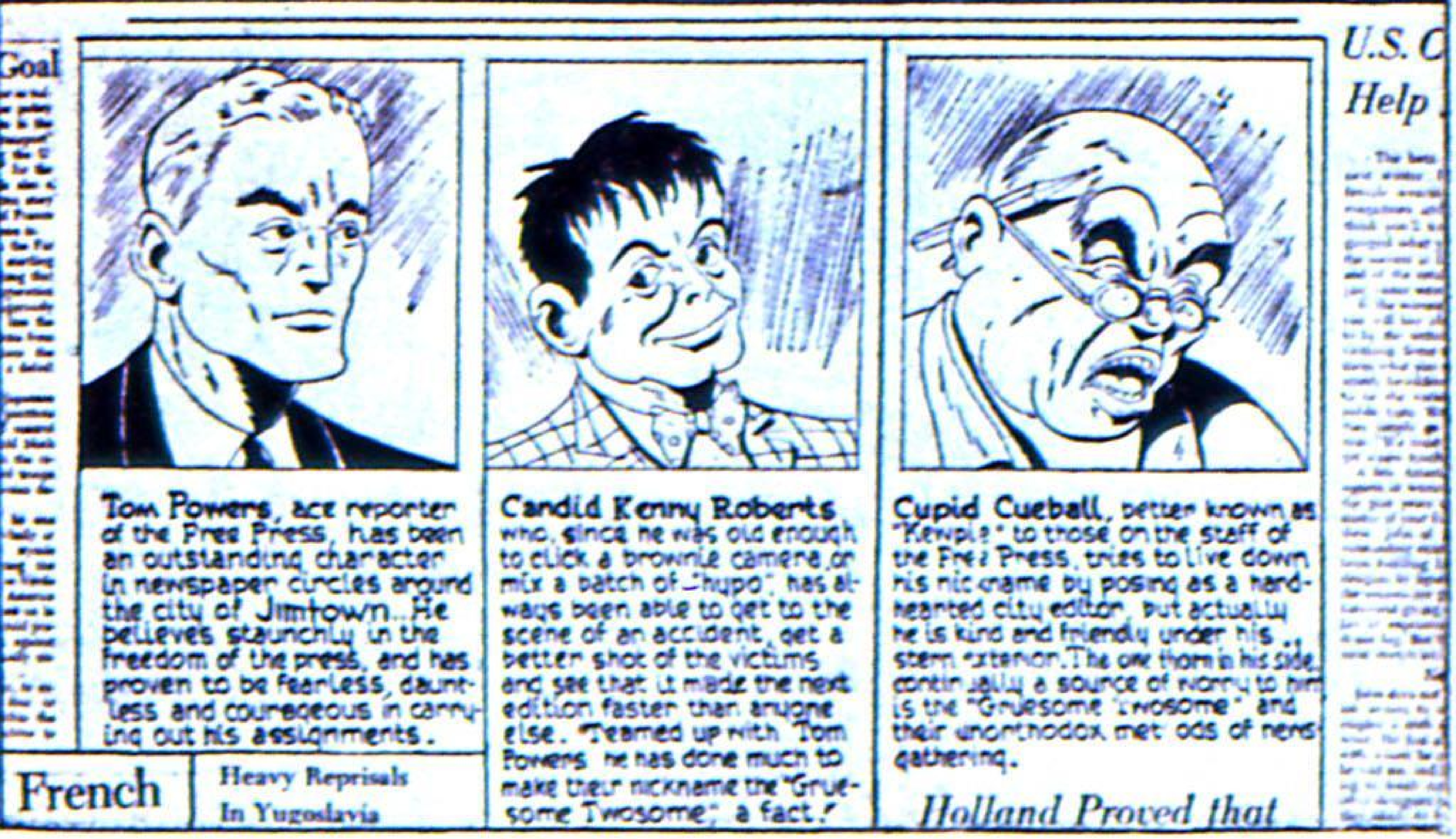
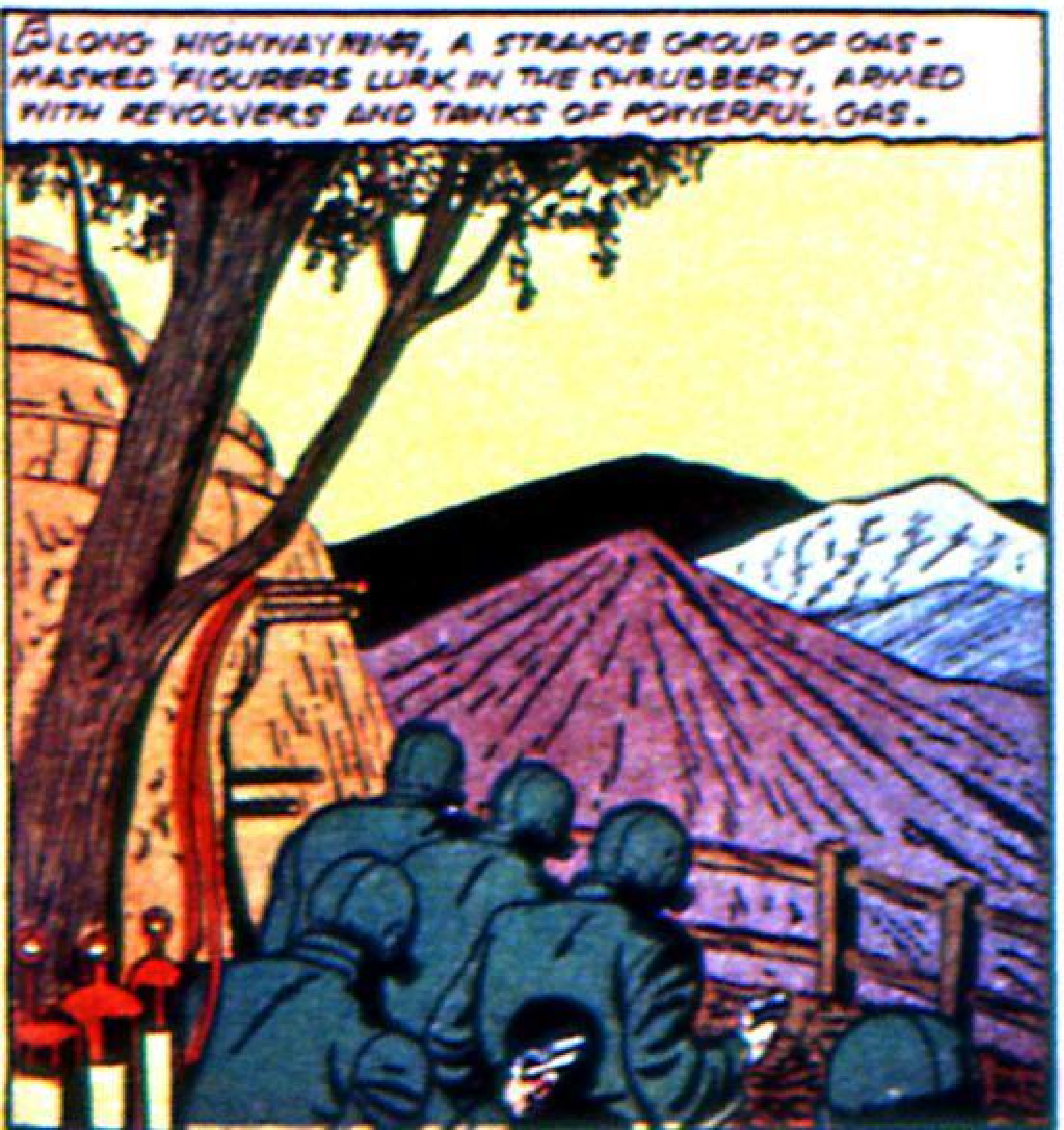
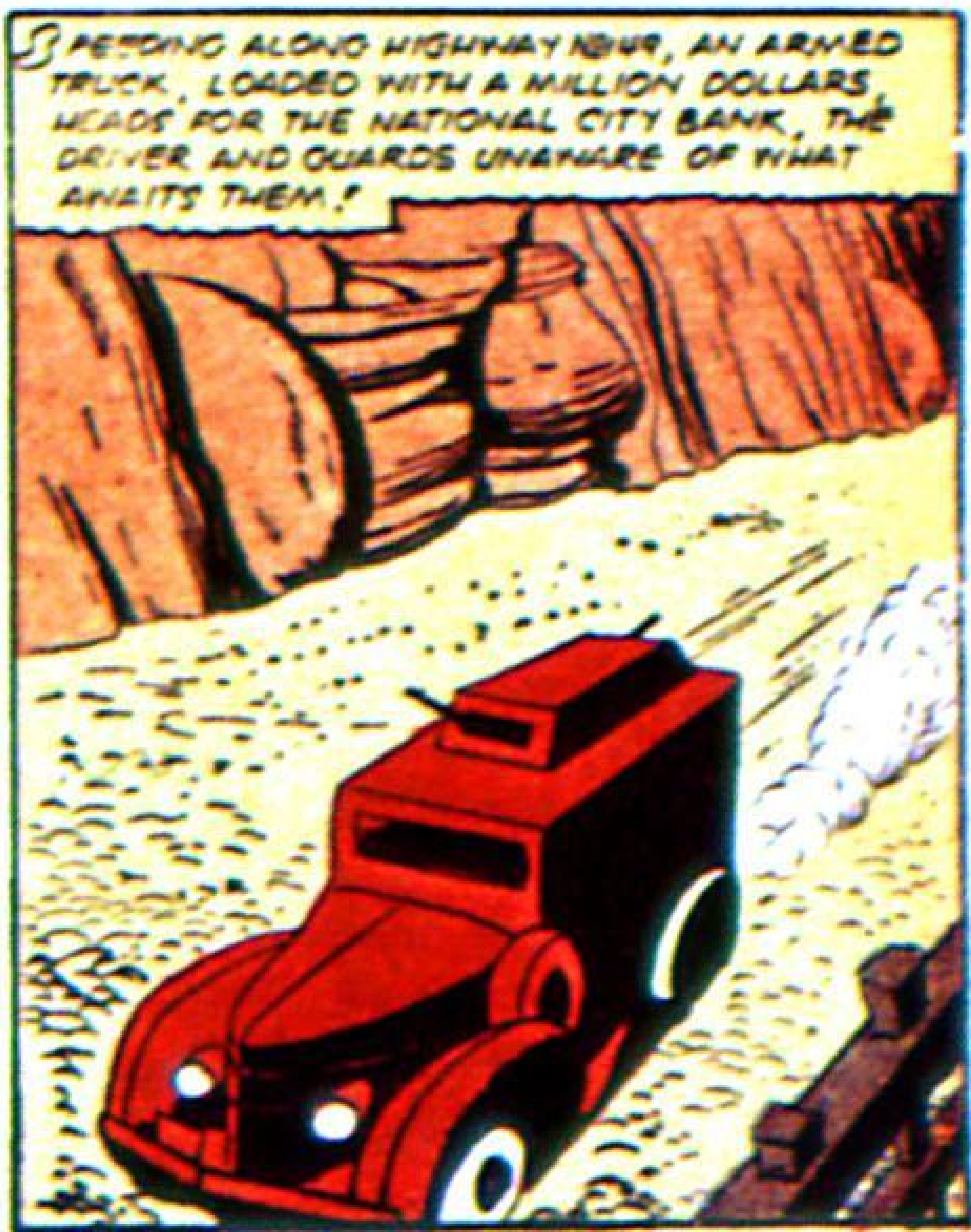
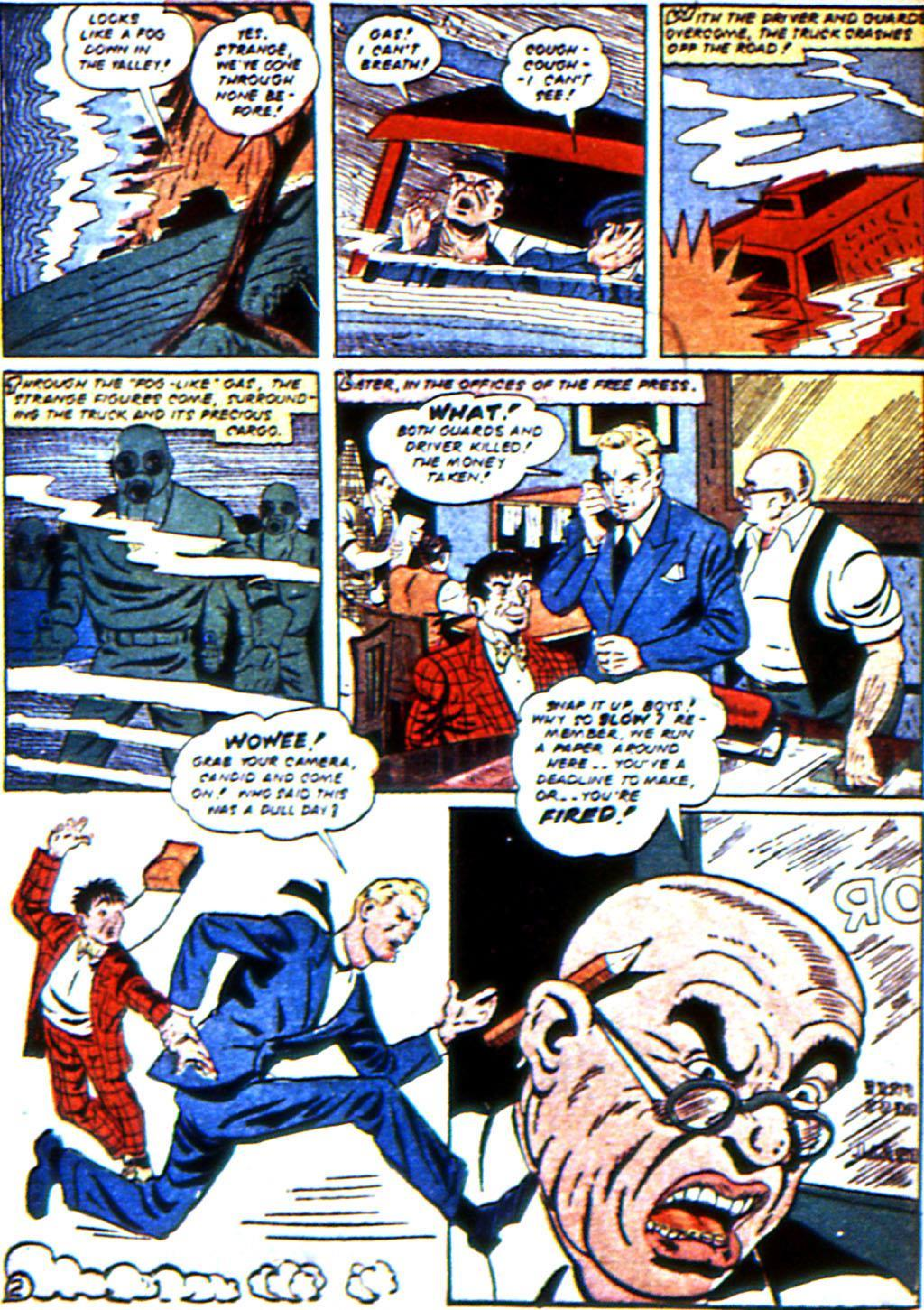
POWERS OF THE PRESS

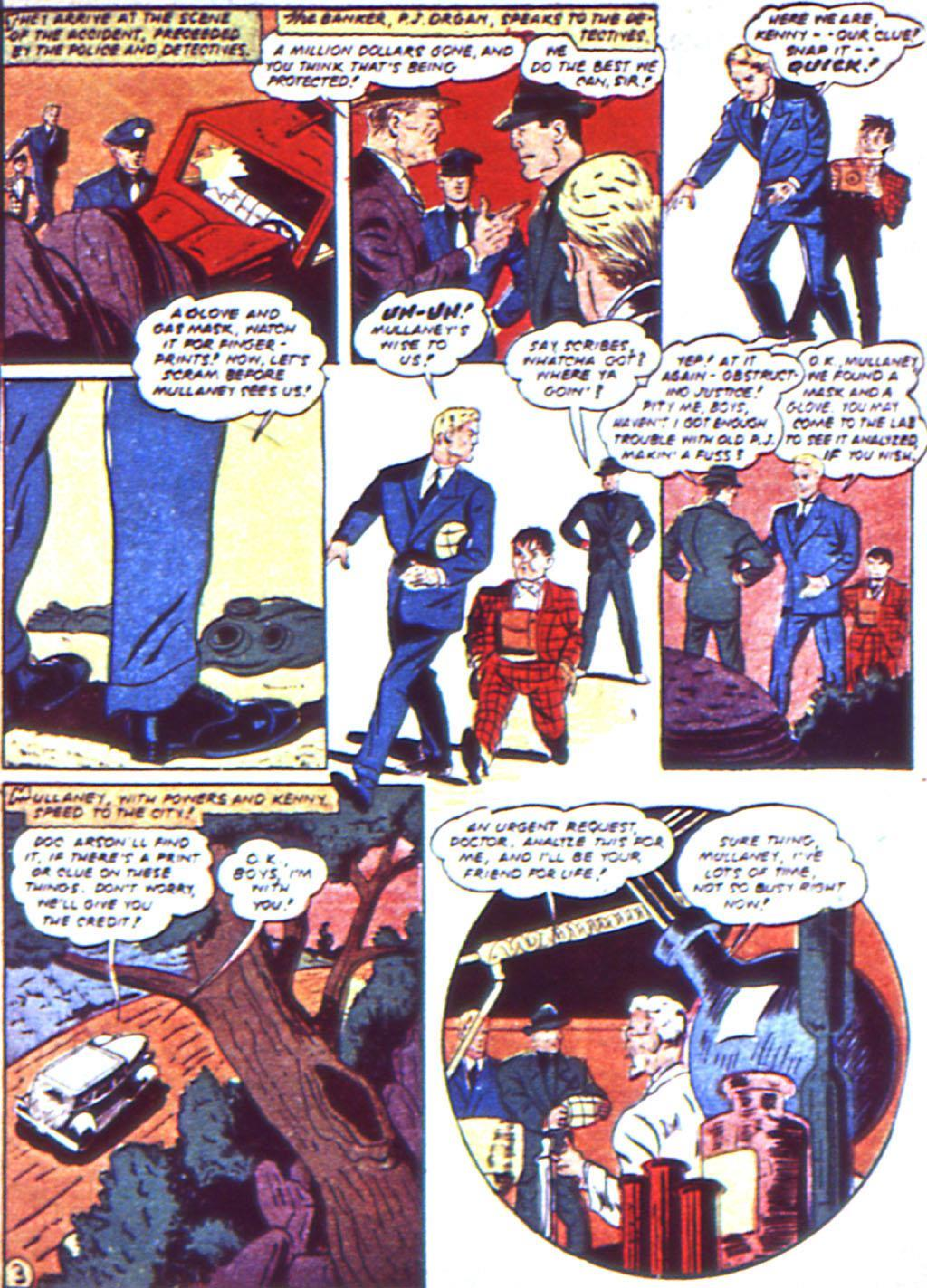
Win

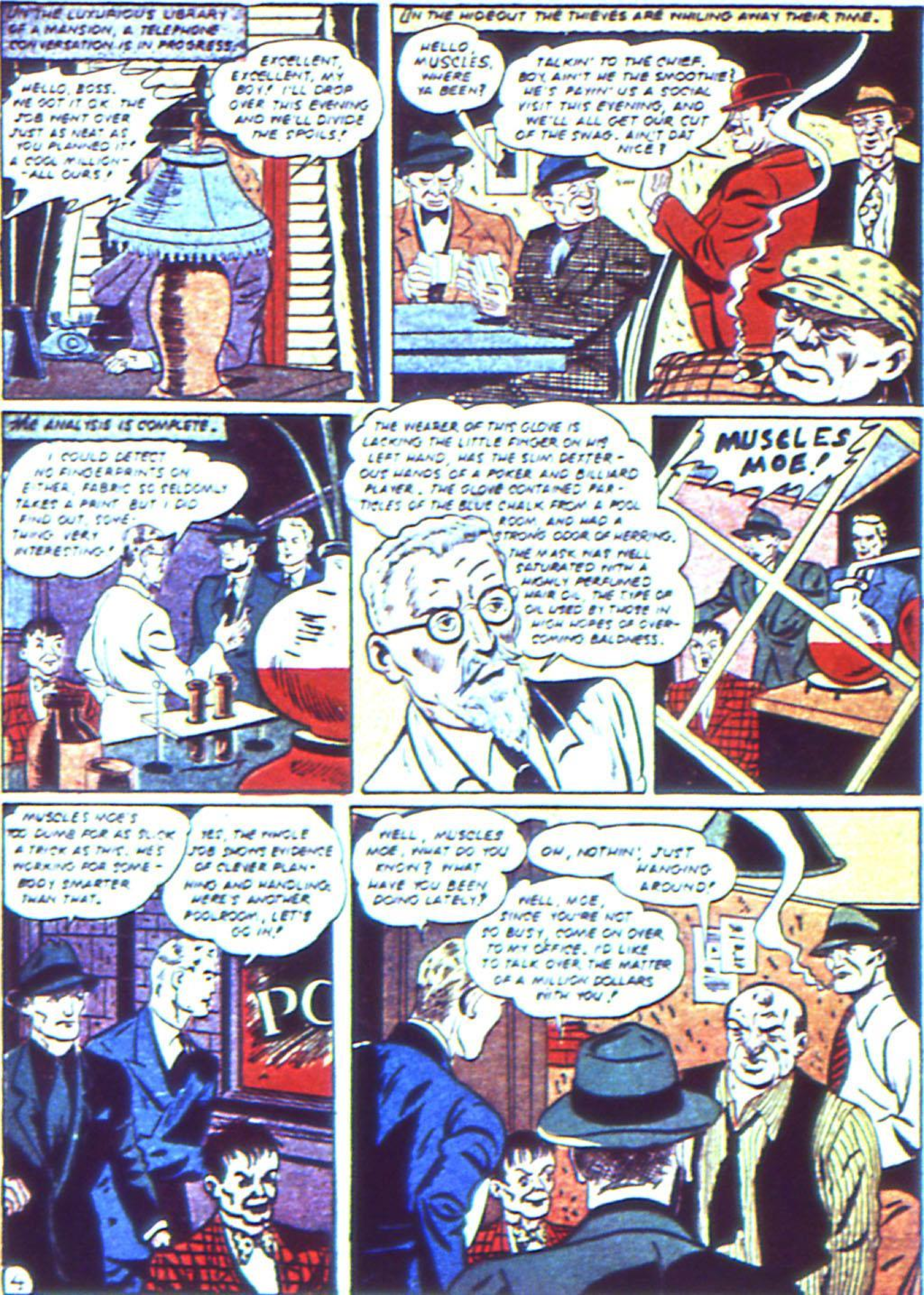

Goal
U.S. C
Help
Tom Powers, ace reporter of the Pres Press, has been an outstanding character in newspaper circles around the city of Jimtown...He believes staunchly in the freedom of the press, and has proven to be fearless, dauntless and courageous in carrying out his assignments.
Candid Kenny Roberts who, since he was old enough to click a brownie camera or mix a batch of "hypo", has always been able to get to the scene of an accident, get a better shot of the victims and see that it made the next edition faster than anyone else. Teamed up with Tom Powers he has done much to make their nickname the "Gruesome Twosome," a fact!
Cupid Cueball, better known as "Kewpie" to those on the staff of the Pres Press, tries to live down his nickname by posing as a hard-hearted city editor, but actually he is kind and friendly under his stern exterior. The one thorn in his side, continually a source of worry to him, is the "Gruesome Twosome" and their unorthodox methods of news gathering.
French
Heavy Reprisals
In Yugoslavia
Holland Proved that

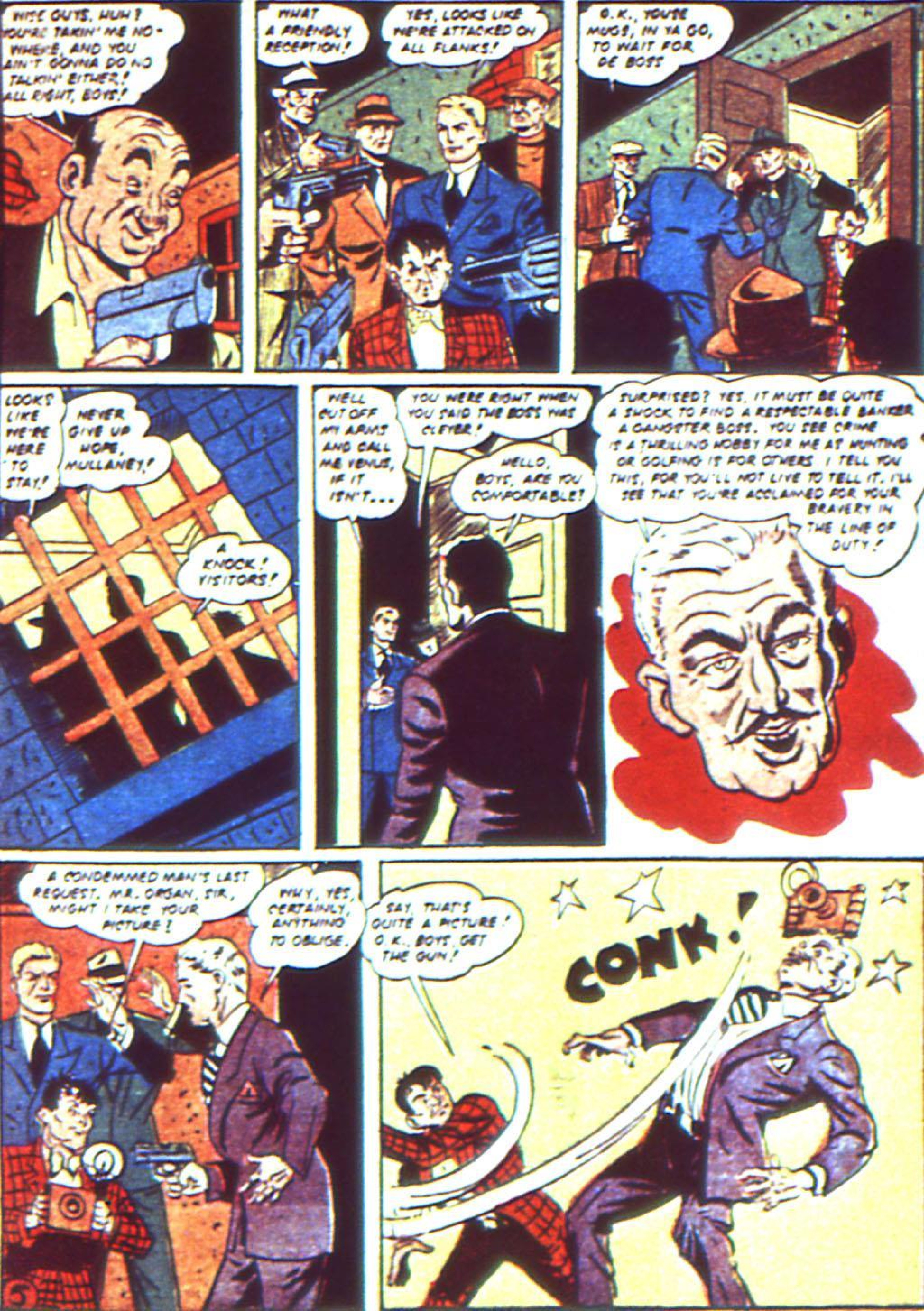

ALONG HIGHWAY #49, A STRANGE GROUP OF GAS-MASKED FIGURES LURK IN THE SHRUBBERY, ARMED WITH REVOLVERS AND TANKS OF POWERFUL GAS.

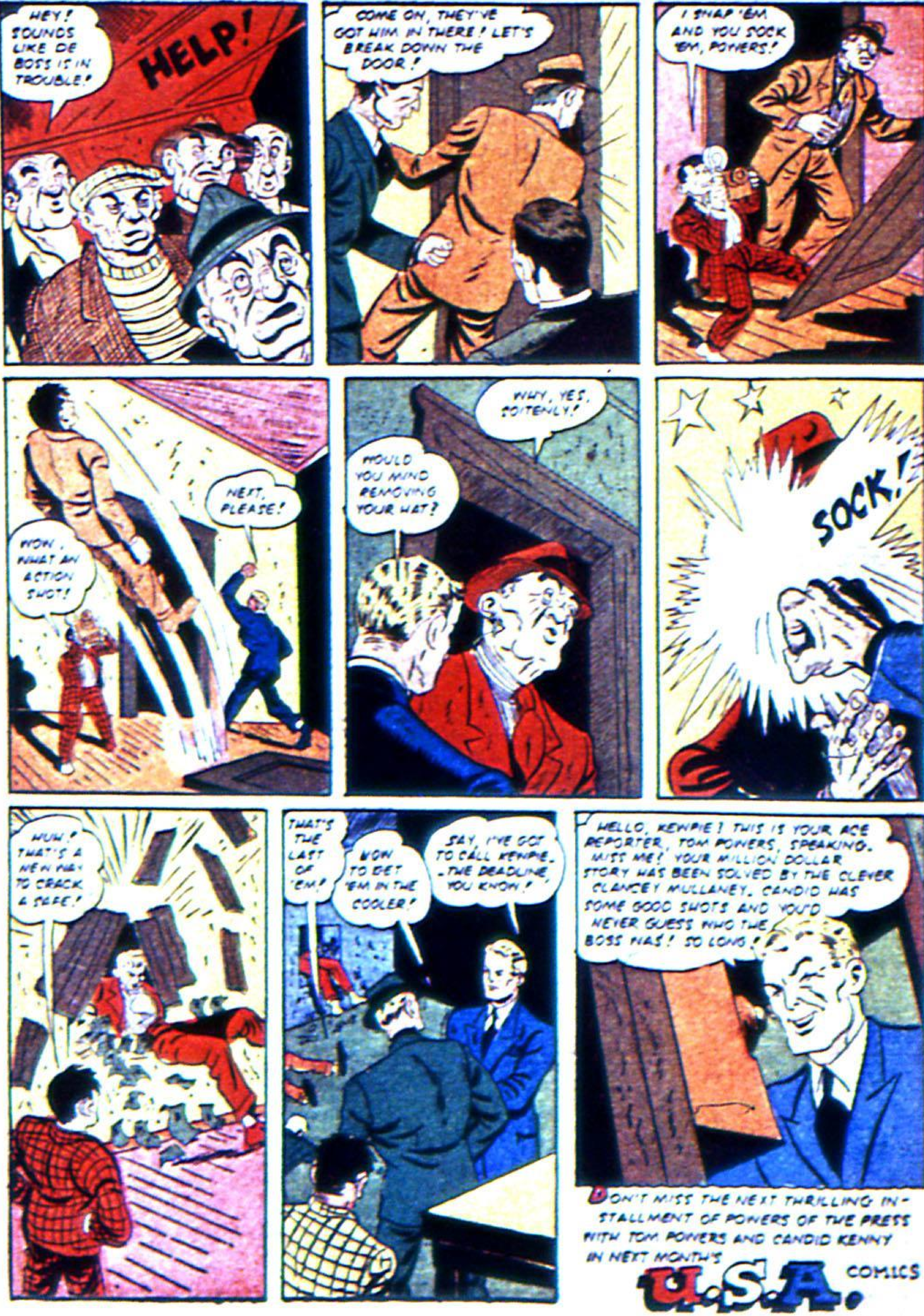

SPEEDING ALONG HIGHWAY #49, AN ARMED TRUCK, LOADED WITH A MILLION DOLLARS, HEADS FOR THE NATIONAL CITY BANK, THE DRIVER AND GUARDS UNAWARE OF WHAT AWAITS THEM!


LOOKS LIKE A FOG DOWN IN THE VALLEY!
YES. STRANGE, WE'VE GONE THROUGH NONE BEFORE!
GAS! I CAN'T BREATH!
COUGH - COUGH - - I CAN'T SEE!
WITH THE DRIVER AND GUARDS OVERCOME, THE TRUCK CRASHES OFF THE ROAD!
THROUGH THE "FOG-LIKE" GAS, THE STRANGE FIGURES COME, SURROUNDING THE TRUCK AND ITS PRECIOUS CARGO.
LATER, IN THE OFFICES OF THE FREE PRESS.
WHAT! BOTH GUARDS AND DRIVER KILLED! THE MONEY TAKEN!
WOWEE! GRAB YOUR CAMERA, CANDID AND COME ON! WHO SAID THIS WAS A DULL DAY?
SNAP IT UP, BOYS! WHY SO SLOW? REMEMBER, WE RUN A PAPER AROUND HERE.. YOU'VE A DEADLINE TO MAKE, OR.. YOU'RE FIRED!


THEY ARRIVE AT THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT, PRECEDED BY THE POLICE AND DETECTIVES.
THE BANKER, P.J. ORGAN, SPEAKS TO THE DETECTIVES.
A MILLION DOLLARS GONE, AND YOU THINK THAT'S BEING PROTECTED!
WE DO THE BEST WE CAN, SIR!
HERE WE ARE, KENNY - - OUR CLUE! SNAP IT - - QUICK!
A GLOVE AND GAS MASK. WATCH IT FOR FINGER-PRINTS! NOW, LET'S SCRAM BEFORE MULLANEY SEES US!
UH-UH! MULLANEY'S WISE TO US!
SAY SCRIBES, WHATCHA GOT? WHERE YA GOIN'?
YEP! AT IT AGAIN - OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE! PITY ME, BOYS, HAVEN'T I GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH OLD P.J. MAKIN' A FUSS?
O.K., MULLANEY, WE FOUND A MASK AND A GLOVE. YOU MAY COME TO THE LAB TO SEE IT ANALYZED, IF YOU WISH.
MULLANEY, WITH POWERS AND KENNY, SPEED TO THE CITY!
DOC ARSON'LL FIND IT, IF THERE'S A PRINT OR CLUE ON THESE THINGS. DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GIVE YOU THE CREDIT!
O.K., BOYS, I'M WITH YOU!
AN URGENT REQUEST, DOCTOR. ANALIZE THIS FOR ME, AND I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND FOR LIFE!
SURE THING, MULLANEY, I'VE LOTS OF TIME, NOT SO BUSY RIGHT NOW!

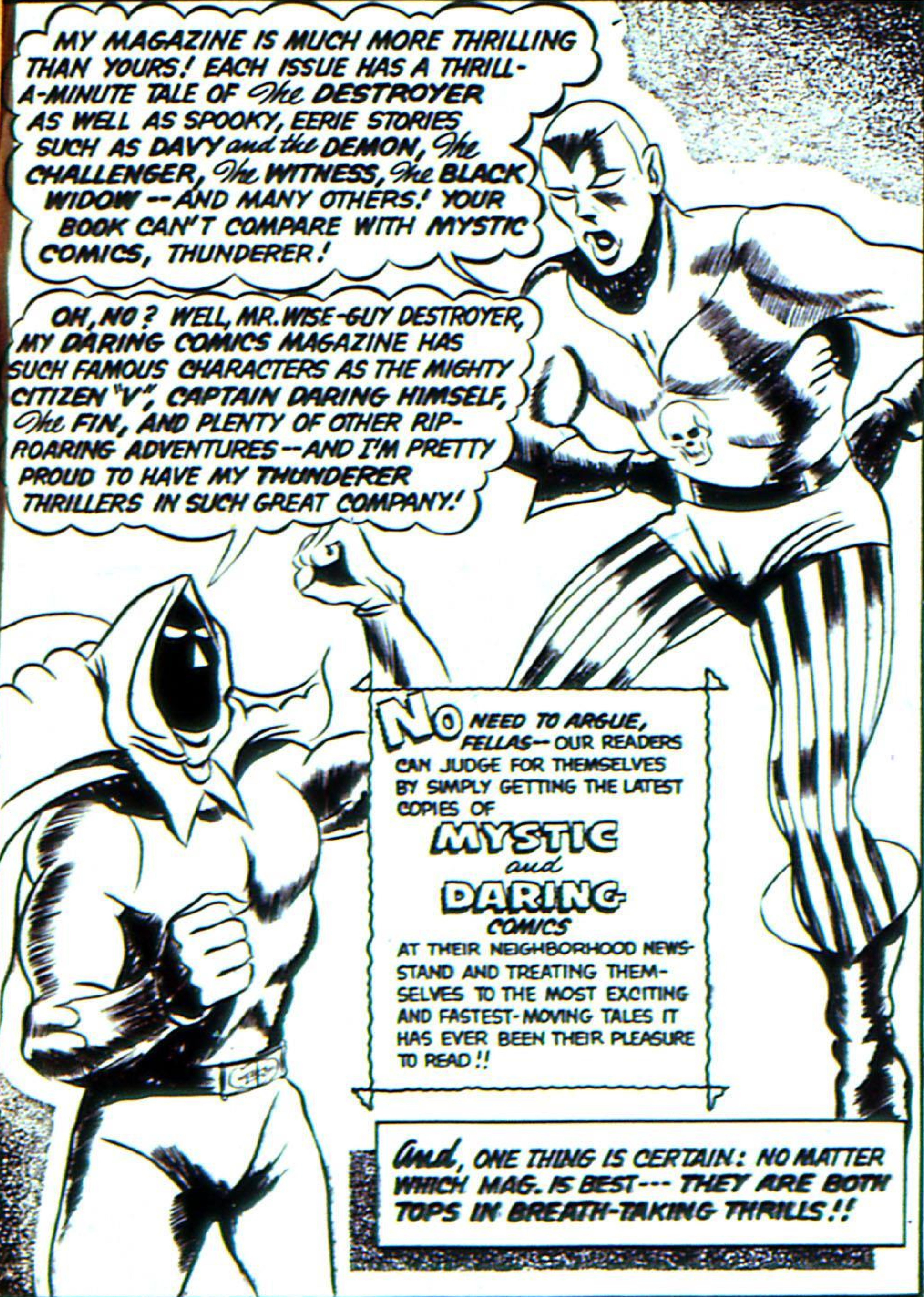

IN THE LUXURIOUS LIBRARY OF A MANSION, A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION IS IN PROGRESS.
HELLO, BOSS. WE GOT IT O.K. THE JOB WENT OVER JUST AS NEAT AS YOU PLANNED IT! A COOL MILLION--ALL OURS!
EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT, MY BOY! I'LL DROP OVER THIS EVENING AND WE'LL DIVIDE THE SPOILS!
IN THE HIDEOUT THE THIEVES ARE WHILING AWAY THEIR TIME.
HELLO, MUSCLES. WHERE YA BEEN?
TALKIN' TO THE CHIEF. BOY, AIN'T HE THE SMOOTHIE? HE'S PAYIN' US A SOCIAL VISIT THIS EVENING, AND WE'LL ALL GET OUR CUT OF THE SWAG. AIN'T DAT NICE?
THE ANALYSIS IS COMPLETE.
I COULD DETECT NO FINGERPRINTS ON EITHER, FABRIC SO SELDOMLY TAKES A PRINT. BUT I DID FIND OUT SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING!
THE WEARER OF THIS GLOVE IS LACKING THE LITTLE FINGER ON HIS LEFT HAND, HAS THE SLIM DEXTEROUS HANDS OF A POKER AND BILLIARD PLAYER. THE GLOVE CONTAINED PARTICLES OF THE BLUE CHALK FROM A POOL ROOM, AND HAD A STRONG ODOR OF HERRING. THE MASK WAS WELL SATURATED WITH A HIGHLY PERFUMED HAIR OIL, THE TYPE OF OIL USED BY THOSE IN HIGH HOPES OF OVERCOMING BALDNESS.
MUSCLES MOE!
MUSCLES MOE'S TOO DUMB FOR AS SLICK A TRICK AS THIS. HE'S WORKING FOR SOMEBODY SMARTER THAN THAT.
YES, THE WHOLE JOB SHOWS EVIDENCE OF CLEVER PLANNING AND HANDLING. HERE'S ANOTHER POOLROOM, LET'S GO IN!
PO
WELL, MUSCLES MOE, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING LATELY?
OH, NOTHIN', JUST HANGING AROUND!
WELL, MOE, SINCE YOU'RE NOT SO BUSY, COME ON OVER TO MY OFFICE. I'D LIKE TO TALK OVER THE MATTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS WITH YOU!

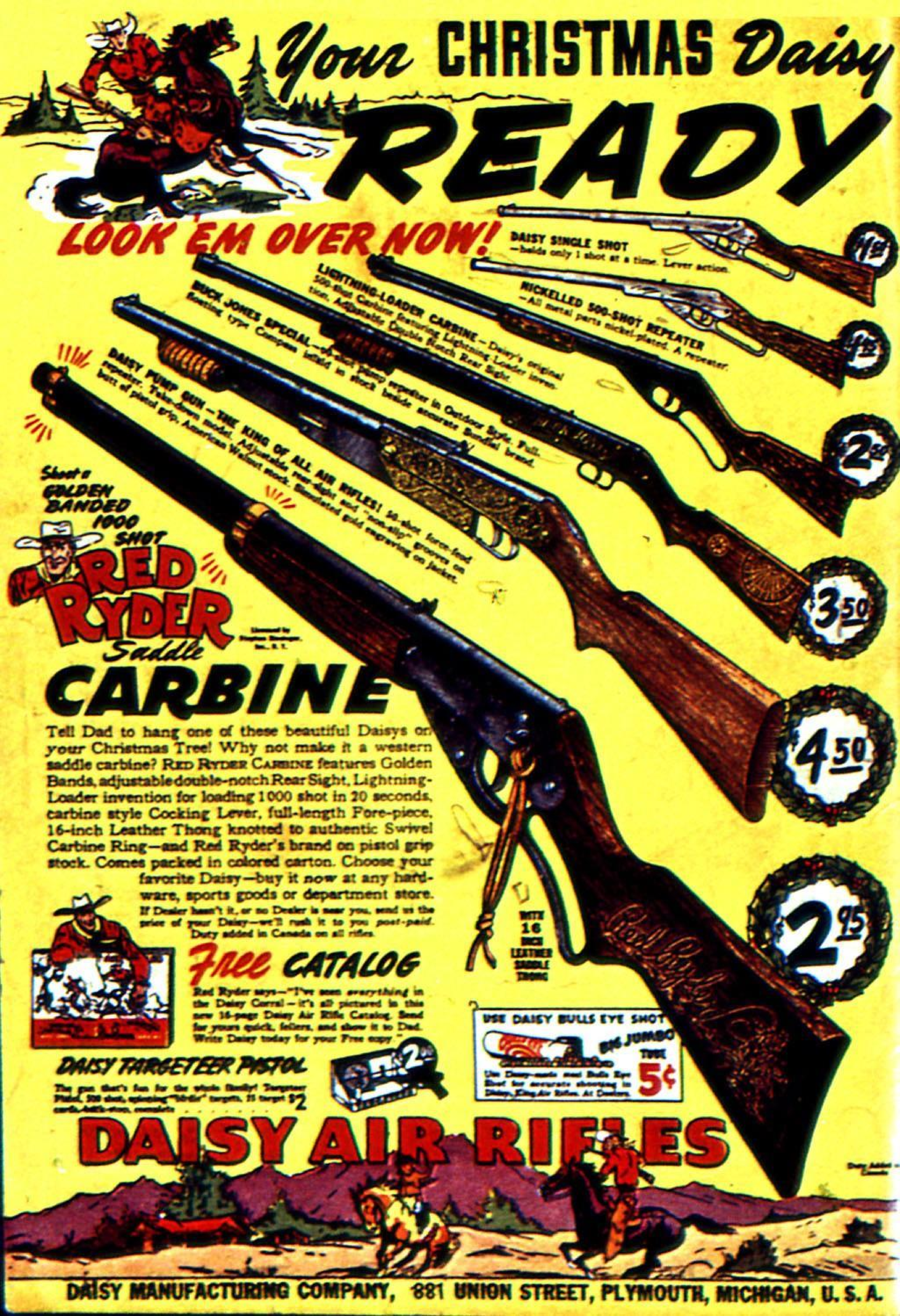

WISE GUYS, HUH? YOU'RE TAKIN' ME NO-WHERE, AND YOU AIN'T GONNA DO NO TALKIN' EITHER! ALL RIGHT, BOYS!
WHAT A FRIENDLY RECEPTION!
YES, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ATTACKED ON ALL FLANKS!
O.K., YOUSE MUGS, IN YA GO, TO WAIT FOR DE BOSS
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HERE TO STAY!
NEVER GIVE UP HOPE, MULLANEY!
A KNOCK! VISITORS!
WELL CUT OFF MY ARMS AND CALL ME VENUS, IF IT ISN'T...
YOU WERE RIGHT WHEN YOU SAID THE BOSS WAS CLEVER!
HELLO, BOYS, ARE YOU COMFORTABLE!
SURPRISED? YES, IT MUST BE QUITE A SHOCK TO FIND A RESPECTABLE BANKER A GANGSTER BOSS. YOU SEE CRIME IS A THRILLING HOBBY FOR ME AS HUNTING OR GOLFING IS FOR OTHERS. I TELL YOU THIS, FOR YOU'LL NOT LIVE TO TELL IT. I'LL SEE THAT YOU'RE ACCLAIMED FOR YOUR BRAVERY IN THE LINE OF DUTY!
A CONDEMNED MAN'S LAST REQUEST. MR. ORGAN, SIR, MIGHT I TAKE YOUR PICTURE!
WHY, YES, CERTAINLY, ANYTHING TO OBLIGE.
SAY, THAT'S QUITE A PICTURE! O.K., BOYS, GET THE GUN!
CONK!
5


HEY! SOUNDS LIKE DE BOSS IS IN TROUBLE!
HELP!
COME ON, THEY'VE GOT HIM IN THERE! LET'S BREAK DOWN THE DOOR!
I SNAP 'EM AND YOU SOCK 'EM, POWERS!
NEXT, PLEASE!
WOW, WHAT AN ACTION SHOT!
WHY, YES, SOITENLY!
WOULD YOU MIND REMOVING YOUR HAT?
SOCK!
HUH! THAT'S A NEW WAY TO CRACK A SAFE!
THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM!
NOW TO GET 'EM IN THE COOLER!
SAY, I'VE GOT TO CALL KEWPIE. -THE DEADLINE, YOU KNOW!
HELLO, KEWPIE! THIS IS YOUR ACE REPORTER, TOM POWERS, SPEAKING. MISS ME! YOUR MILLION DOLLAR STORY HAS BEEN SOLVED BY THE CLEVER CLANCEY MULLANEY. CANDID HAS SOME GOOD SHOTS AND YOU'D NEVER GUESS WHO THE BOSS WAS! SO LONG!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT THRILLING INSTALLMENT OF POWERS OF THE PRESS WITH TOM POWERS AND CANDID KENNY IN NEXT MONTH'S

U.S.A. COMICS


MY MAGAZINE IS MUCH MORE THRILLING THAN YOURS! EACH ISSUE HAS A THRILL-A-MINUTE TALE OF The DESTROYER AS WELL AS SPOOKY, EERIE STORIES SUCH AS DAVY and the DEMON, The CHALLENGER, The WITNESS, The BLACK WIDOW -- AND MANY OTHERS! YOUR BOOK CAN'T COMPARE WITH MYSTIC COMICS, THUNDERER!
OH, NO? WELL, MR. WISE-GUY DESTROYER, MY DARING COMICS MAGAZINE HAS SUCH FAMOUS CHARACTERS AS THE MIGHTY CITIZEN "V", CAPTAIN DARING HIMSELF, The FIN, AND PLENTY OF OTHER RIP-ROARING ADVENTURES -- AND I'M PRETTY PROUD TO HAVE MY THUNDERER THRILLERS IN SUCH GREAT COMPANY!
NO NEED TO ARGUE, FELLAS -- OUR READERS CAN JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES BY SIMPLY GETTING THE LATEST COPIES OF MYSTIC and DARING COMICS AT THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSSTAND AND TREATING THEMSELVES TO THE MOST EXCITING AND FASTEST-MOVING TALES IT HAS EVER BEEN THEIR PLEASURE TO READ!!
And, ONE THING IS CERTAIN: NO MATTER WHICH MAG. IS BEST --- THEY ARE BOTH TOPS IN BREATH-TAKING THRILLS!!



Your CHRISTMAS Daisy READY

LOOK 'EM OVER NOW!

DAISY SINGLE SHOT —holds only 1 shot at a time. Lever action.

NICKELLED 500-SHOT REPEATER —All metal parts nickel-plated. A repeater.

LIGHTNING-LOADER CARBINE—Daisy's original 500-Shot Carbine featuring Lightning-Loader invention. Adjustable Double Notch Rear Sight.

BUCK JONES SPECIAL—50-shot pump repeater in Outdoor Style. Full floating type Compass inlaid in stock beside accurate Sundial brand.

DAISY PUMP GUN—THE KING OF ALL AIR RIFLES! 50-shot force-feed repeater. Take-down model. Adjustable rear-sight and "non-slip" grooves on butt of pistol grip. American Walnut stock. Simulated gold engraving on jacket.

Shoot a GOLDEN BANDED 1000 SHOT

RED RYDER Saddle

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CARBINE

Tell Dad to hang one of these beautiful Daisys on your Christmas Tree! Why not make it a western saddle carbine? RED RYDER CARBINE features Golden Bands, adjustable double-notch Rear Sight, Lightning-Loader invention for loading 1000 shot in 20 seconds, carbine style Cocking Lever, full-length Fore-piece, 16-inch Leather Thong knotted to authentic Swivel Carbine Ring—and Red Ryder's brand on pistol grip stock. Comes packed in colored carton. Choose your favorite Daisy—buy it *now* at any hardware, sports goods or department store.

If Dealer hasn't it, or no Dealer is near you, send us the price of your Daisy—we'll rush it to you *post-paid*. Duty added in Canada on all rifles.

WITH 16 INCH LEATHER SADDLE THONG

Free CATALOG

Red Ryder says—"I've seen *everything* in the Daisy Corral—it's all pictured in this new 16-page Daisy Air Rifle Catalog. Send for yours quick, fellers, and show it to Dad. Write Daisy today for your Free copy."

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The gun that's fun for the whole family! Targeteer Pistol, 500 shot, spinning "birdie" targets, 25 target cards, [illegible] $2

USE DAISY BULLS EYE SHOT

BIG JUMBO TUBE 5¢

Use Daisy-made steel Bulls Eye Shot for accurate shooting in Daisy, King Air Rifles. At Dealers.

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